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THE HIGH SCHOOL.

# THE EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENTS OF NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME.

BY

T. PAPE, B.A.,

Author of "Warton & George Washington's Ancestors."

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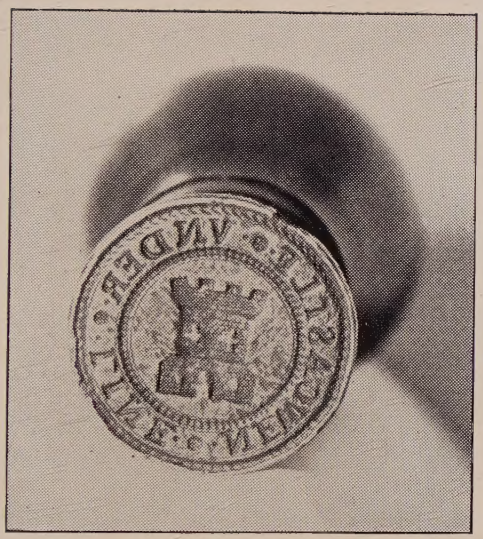

THE BOROUGH SEAL IN 1687.

## THE OFFICE OF HIGH STEWARD.

The first High Steward of the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme was appointed in the Charter granted by James II. on 16th March, 1685. The following is a translation of the clause relating thereto :—"And for the better execution of our will and grant herein We have signed nominated constituted and made by these presents, do for us our Heirs and Successors assign nominate constitute and make our right trusty and well beloved Cousin Charles Earl of Shrewsbury to be the first and present HIGH STEWARD of the Borough aforesaid to continue in the said office during his natural life."

By the same Charter the Mayor and Corporation could break, change, and renew their seal. In the "Borough Records" on January 7th, 1687, it was enacted :—"Voted that the new seale cutt in brasse with the words Newcastle-under-Lyne inscribed about it be used as the Towne Seale and bee as effectual to all intents and purposes as the former seal was." A photograph of that very seal "cutt in brasse" is shown. It was laid on one side when towards the end of 1688 James II. issued "A Proclamation for restoring Corporations to their Antient Charters, Liberties, Rights, and Franchises," and the old thirteenth century seal once more came into use.

TO

HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS

THE GRAND DUKE MICHAEL OF RUSSIA,

HIGH STEWARD OF

THE BOROUGH OF NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME,

THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE

(BY PERMISSION) RESPECTFULLY

DEDICATED.

# INTRODUCTION.

Successive Acts of Parliament in the last half-century have swept away the landmarks set up by the educational efforts of our ancestors. The School Board Act of 1870 and the Compulsion Acts of 1876 and 1880 in Elementary Education and the Endowed Schools Act of 1869, and the County Authorities Act of 1902 in Secondary Education, have altered the educational map of the County. The old foundations are barely recognisable, and the sweeping changes adumbrated in recent utterances threaten to leave no stone upon another to tell the generations that come after us what the enlightened men of the last three hundred years have done out of mere love of learning and public spirit for the education of their countrymen.

The distribution of educational endowments in England seems to have been the fortuitous outcome of the enlightenment and generosity of individuals, and is consequently unequal. Enquiry Commissioners are astonished to find one district entirely unprovided for, while another has been so richly furnished with endowments that they have been in danger of being allowed to diminish in usefulness, because of their number. Places like Bedford and Gloucester and Dulwich almost suffered from the multiplicity of schools. In North Staffordshire, Newcastle has in like manner been marked out from other Staffordshire places as especially favoured by the founders of educational trusts.

Before then the amalgamation of ancient endowments and the augmentation of revenues from the public purses have altogether caused the names of our benefactors to be forgotten, it was extremely desirable that what facts are known of the history of the various educational foundations of the ancient and loyal borough of Newcastle should be gathered together and saved from oblivion.

The worthies of Newcastle are not to be allowed in the words of Horace, "*carpere lividas obliviones*"; they have found in Mr. Pape, if not a sacred bard, at any rate a loving and faithful chronicler.

From the muniment chests of the Town Council he has industriously traced out the history of each school. It is to be regretted that most of the actual school records have perished. I remember that on my first visit in 1873 to see what Newcastle was like, I was taken by the Chairman of the Governors to the then existing Grammar School, and I marked down sundry old tomes in the little annex which Mr. Godfrey Wedgwood describes, intending, if I became the new Headmaster, to study them: but when I came to live in Newcastle I found only one torn page behind, enough to show how interesting the rest had been, the boys of the town having got in and destroyed the rest.

If the benefactors, masters and dames whose circumstances Mr. Pape has unearthed, were able to re-visit the scene of their gifts and their labours, they might well be proud that so large a tree has grown from the seed that they sowed. The three great schools of Newcastle, each doing yeoman's service not only to the old town itself, but to the neighbourhood, and to England, would surely make them thank God that a little one has become a thousand.

This resurrection of the dry bones of the Newcastle Educational Charities into the three present living organisms was in great measure due to the Report of the Schools Enquiry Commission appointed in 1864. In this connection I feel in private duty bound to acknowledge the help of my former chief, Dr. Frederick Temple, then Headmaster of Rugby School, who was one of the Commissioners, and to whose pen the report of the Commission was in the main due and who at a later date laid the Foundation Stone of the High School; and as regards Staffordshire itself to refer to the sound advice contained in the Report of the Assistant Commissioner for this area, of my friend and school-fellow, T. H. Green, of Balliol College.

The lines of the Commissioners' Report were under the Endowed Schools Act of 1869 faithfully carried out in a scheme issued in 1872 by the Endowed Schools Commissioners, of whom the late Lord Lyttleton was the Chairman. The only fault that I should feel inclined to make with the Scheme of 1872 is that it has proved in the variety of its suggestions too extensive for the resources of the Trust.

It is interesting to note that the lineal descent from Sir Rowland Cotton, of Alkington, Mayor of Newcastle in 1614, and brother of one of our earliest benefactors, is still represented in the Governing Body of the Endowed Schools in the person of Miss Constance Lilian Cotton, a circumstance as far as we know unique in the history of educational charities.

F. E. KITCHENER.

*Oulton Old Hall,*
*Stone,*
*March 8th,* 1913.

I have endeavoured in these pages to record in chronological order the main facts about the different educational endowments of this borough down to their amalgamation in 1872. The story of the development of the three modern schools then founded is easy of access and is therefore not included. My chief sources of information have been :

(1) The original documents in the custody of Mr. J. H. Knight, Clerk to the Governors ;

(2) Original documents, relating to educational matters, in the custody of Mr. J. Griffith, Town Clerk ;

(3) The Borough Records, which begin in the year 1368 ;

(4) The Registers of St. Giles's Church ;

(5) Various Charity Commissioners' Reports ;

(6) Mr. G. Griffith's "Free Schools and Endowments of Staffordshire," 1860 ;

(7) The files of *The Staffordshire Advertiser*.

I am glad of this opportunity of expressing my best thanks to Mr. Kitchener for his practical encouragement and for the Introduction ; to Mr. Knight and Mr. Lovatt for access to the original documents ; to Mr. Griffith and Mr. Hughes for the great demands I have made on their time and patience at the Town Clerk's Office ; to the Rev. J. W. Dunne for access to the Church registers ; to Dr. Rutter for making possible the publication of this information in its present form ; to Mr. E. Slaney for access to the files of *The Staffordshire Advertiser* ; and for various kindnesses to Miss Powell, Mr. F. Harrison, the late Alderman W. L. Elliott, Mr. G. T. Bagguley, Messrs. Mandley & Unett, and lastly but by no means least to the Editor of the county paper, in whose columns originally appeared this account of the Educational Endowments of Newcastle-under-Lyme.

T. PAPE.

The Middle School,
Newcastle, Staffs.

*June*, 1913.

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CHAPTER I.

# EARLY BOROUGH SCHOOL. MASTERS AND THE FIRST ENDOWMENT.

As for the past three and a half centuries Newcastle has been the educational centre of North Staffordshire, and as many of the inhabitants not only in the ancient borough but also in the surrounding district, including the newly-federated borough of Stoke-on-Trent, have been educated at one of the Newcastle schools, no doubt, the history of the educational endowments and their development will appeal to a very wide circle indeed.

## THE FIRST SCHOOLMASTER.

The earliest mention of anything to do with a school in Newcastle of which I have any definite account is contained in the first book of the "Borough Records," under the date 1565, seven years after Queen Elizabeth ascended the throne. "1565, also it is agreed to pay William Sabshed our schoolmaster xxvis. viiid. for one whole year, and after as the town likes."

It should be noted that the Mayor and the twenty-four capital burgesses called him *our* schoolmaster, and they were careful to state that his salary was for *one whole year*.

From the records of the same year it is interesting and instructive to notice this item, "1565, John Hales admitted Bellman for the town, and to pay yearly therefor xxvis. viiid. quarterly, and to begin at the nativity of our Lord God next ensuing; to pay vis. viiid. Sureties for him Thomas Harrison and John Woddall."

The duties of the Bellman and of the Borough Schoolmaster were to be paid at the same rate! But the schoolmaster proved to an enlightened Corporation that his services were worth more than those of the bellman, and so in the following year we read:—"1566. It is agreed by the great inquest and the small with the consent of the Mayor and the brethen to pay to William

Sabshed the schoolmaster £10 yearly, and to abate John Hales of his yearly payment vis. viiid." Not only had the schoolmaster gained 650 per cent. by this sudden increase in salary, but part of it was gained at the expense of the borough official, whose services had previoulsy been rated as highly as his own.

The despised bellman, with his salary of £1 per annum, had now lost 25 per cent. of his initial income.

## SABSHED BECOMES A BURGESS.

A few years later the schoolmaster, out of his princely salary had saved up enough money to pay the fee customary upon election as a burgess. "1571. William Sabshed cometh into his liberties, paying therefor xxs., the one-half in hand and the other half within the year, when the town shall have need."

Evidently the school kept by Mr. William Sabshed increased, because in the following year occurs this entry :—"1572. Item, it is confirmed this year by a general consent, as was granted by the same in afore time and presented, that William Sabshed, now schoolmaster of this town, shall have xls. of the town money toward the farther maintenance of the school so long as he keepeth a school sufficient in the town."

The last part of this entry implies that the £2 increase in salary was for the extra scholars taught, and that Sabshed's school was sufficient for the teaching of all the borough children.

## RESIGNATION OF SABSHED.

The apotheosis of this borough official occurred fifteen years later, when he established a precedent for subsequent Newcastle schoolmasters by resigning his mastership to take up a more lucrative profession. He became one of the two bailiffs in Newcastle in 1587.

What became of John Hales, the bellman, I am not able to relate.

## THE FIRST SCHOOL.

But although these are the first definite records of a school in Newcastle, yet there is a well-founded tradition that the first scholars were taught in the tower of St. Giles's Church : and it is pleasing thus to associate the first school with the grand old tower that has outlasted three, if

not four, churches, and that has been intimately connected for more than seven centuries with the growth of the old borough. The Church of St. Giles, although until 1807 a chapel-of-ease to the mother church at Stoke, was of very great importance when in early times Newcastle was the only large town in North Staffordshire.

Before the dissolution of the monasteries in the reign of Henry VIII. three chantries were attached to St. Giles's Church. A chantry was the name given to a chapel or altar endowed for the purpose of having mass sung, generally for the repose of the soul of the founder. There were three such chantries attached to the church of St. Giles, dedicated respectively to the Virgin Mary, St. Katherine, and St. Leonard, and the chantry houses wherein the priests lived were situated in Friar's-lane, Bridge-street, and the Higherland. The Chantry of St. Katherine is mentioned in 1319 and the chaplain of it in 1360 was John de Doneham. In 1392 a patent was granted to establish the chantry of the Virgin Mary in St. Giles's Church, and in 1510 the Butchers' Gild agreed that they should "keep a light before Our Lady." These chantry priests eked out their scanty living by teaching. Shakespeare in "Twelfth Night," Act III., scene 2, makes reference to the practice :— Maria : "He's in yellow stockings." Sir Toby : "And cross-gartered ?" Maria : "Most villanously ; like a pedant that keeps a school i' the church." Shakespeare uses the word "pedant" only in the sense of "pedagogue :" and no doubt in the poet's mind there was the remembrance of the Grammar School at Stratford-on-Avon, which at intervals during his days had been kept in the adjacent Chapel of the Gild.

## EARLY ECCLESIASTICAL SCHOOLS.

In Henry VIII's Cathedral reconstruction statutes every Cathedral was bound to have a free school attached, and a certain number of the scholars were to be sent to the Universities and taught therein free of cost. Most probably one of the Chantry priests kept a school in St. Giles's Church. A few years after the dissolution of the monasteries all these small chantries were swept away, and if the Corporation of Newcastle had not fostered education there might have been no generous donors to carry on the good work. It is on record that the Dominican Friary, situated where now the Smithfield adjoins Blackfriars-street and Lower-street, was suppressed in 1538. About ten

years later the chantries of St. Giles's Church would be done away with, and the school kept by the priest most probably came to an end.

The interval between the suppression of these chantries and the mention of the borough schoolmaster in 1565 is less than twenty years, so that most likely William Sabshed was the very first head-master of the school which developed into the old Grammar School.

## RANDULL DAVENPORT, SCHOOLMASTER.

In the same year as William Sabshed was elected bailiff in the following terms : " Willmus Sabshed electus est ballus per xxiiii," there is also this entry —" 1587. This year Randull Davenport our schoolmaster cometh into his liberties, paying therefor iiili. vis. viiid. whereof xxxiiis. iiiid. is paid in hand and the rest to be paid when the town hath need. Sureties, Thomas Bailey and Thomas Keeling." Evidently Randull Davenport was the second borough schoolmaster. Three years later William Sabshed in the charter granted to Newcastle by Queen Elizabeth was made one of the twenty-four Capital Burgesses, and he was elected to fill the office of Deputy Steward or Town Clerk during the town's pleasure. No doubt, Thomas Sabshed, the Town Clerk in 1602, was some relation to William Sabshed.

The excellent example in regard to education which was set by the Corporation authorities received private encouragement at the beginning of the seventeenth century.

## RICHARD CLEYTON'S ENDOWMENT.

Richard Cleyton, a dyer, who was born at Newcastle, bequeathed £10 per annum to be paid to the borough schoolmaster. As this is the first educational endowment to Newcastle, Richard Cleyton's grant, which I believe has never yet been printed in full, is therefore quoted :—

" To all Christian people to whom this present writing shall come Richard Cleyton of London, dyer, sendeth greeting in our Lord God everlasting, Know that I the said Richard Cleyton of a charitable disposition and for the natural love that I do bear to the town and townsmen and children born and to be born within the town or borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme in the county of Stafford where I was born, have given granted and confirmed unto my brother Thomas Cleyton of Newcastle-under-Lyme aforesaid And to

Thomas Keeling, Mayor, William Hill and Robert Smith, bailiffs, Randall Bagnall, John Bagnall, Richard Harrison, Edward Beardmore, John Smith Aldermen, Thomas Cleyton, junr., Thomas Bayley, John Harrison, Richard Bagnall, James Shaw, Richard Hunt, Randall Lovatt, Randall Patson, Richard Woolley, Ottiwell Stubbs, William Williamson, Randall Swynnerton, Thomas Bradshaw, Richard Heath, Randall Leigh, William Boulton, Robert Colyar, and John Dorrington, Capital Burgesses of the above-named town or borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme in the county of Stafford.

## TEN POUNDS PER ANNUM.

"One annuity or yearly rent of ten pounds of good and lawful money of England by the year to be issuing and doing perceived received and taken out of all that my dwelling house shops and warehouses thereunto belonging with the appurtenances situate lying and being in the parish of St. Lawrence in the Old Jewry London between a messuage or tenement wherein one Thomas Colcott now dwelleth on the south side and a house or messuage wherein John Wilkinson now dwelleth on the north side and now in the occupation of me the said Richard Cleyton and called or known by the name of the Mitre, To have hold perceive receive and enjoy the said annuity or yearly rent of xli. by the year immediately from and after the decease of me the said Richard Cleyton and Cicely Cleyton my wife unto the said Thomas Cleyton my brother, Thomas Keeling, Mayor, William Hill and Robert Smith, bailiffs, &c., and their heirs, successors and assigns for ever, To the sole and only use and behalf of the said Thomas Cleyton my brother, Thomas Keeling, Mayor, &c., and their heirs, successors, and assigns.

## TO PROVIDE A SCHOOLMASTER.

"To this intent and purpose nevertheless that they and their successors and assigns shall for ever with the said annuity or yearly rent find and provide therewith such and able an sufficient schoolmaster removable at the will and pleasure of the said Thomas Cleyton, the Mayor, bailiffs, and Capital Burgesses and their successors or the most part of them.

## THIRTY POOR CHILDREN TO BE TAUGHT.

"Which shall teach and instruct in learning thirty poor children born and to be born within the said town of Newcastle-under-Lyme, gratis, and without other reward for the same as shall be named and thought a fit and a meet man by the said Thomas Cleyton my brother while he shall live, and after his death to the maintenance of such a meet and able person as shall be thought a meet and able person by the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Capital Burgesses for the time being or the most part of them, the said annuity or yearly rent to be paid yearly on the feast day of St. John Baptist or within one month next, after at the messuage aforesaid.

## THE FIRST PAYMENT.

"The first payment thereof to be had and made at the first feast of St. John Baptist which shall first happen to come next after the decease of me the said Richard Cleyton and Cicely my wife. And if it shall happen the said annuity or yearly rent of ten pounds by the year to be behind and unpaid in part or in all at the said feast day or within one month next after being lawfully demanded, and the acquittance of the Mayor and bailiffs of the said town of Newcastle-under-Lyme for the time beind under the seal of the said Corporation tendered therefore at the said house to such person or persons as ought to pay the same unto the said Thomas Cleyton, the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Capital Burgesses for the time being or their lawful assigns, That then it shall and may be lawful for the said Thomas Cleyton, the Mayor, bailiffs, and Capital Burgesses for the time being or their lawful assigns into the said messuage and other the premises to enter and there to distrain and the distress or distresses there taken to take bear and carry away and impound, And impound to detain until the said Thomas Cleyton, the Mayor, bailiffs, and Capital Burgesses of Newcastle-under-Lyme and their successors and lawful assigns shall be fully satisfied of the said annuity or yearly rent and of the arrearage thereof if any shall happen to be, and of forty shillings of like lawful money *p nomine pene* for every default of payment that shall be made in paying the said annuity or yearly rent.

## THE SCHOOLMASTER'S QUALIFICATION.

"PROVIDED always that if the said Thomas Cleyton my brother, the Mayor, bailiffs, and Capital Burgesses for the time being of the afore

written town or borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme or the most part of them shall not for ever hereafter provide and find or cause to be provided and found an able and sufficient schoolmaster and such an one as hath or shall have taken the degree of Bachelor of Arts in one of the Universities of Cambridge or Oxford, but shall suffer the said name or place of schoolmaster to be void by the space of two months of such an able and sufficient schoolmaster, Bachelor in Arts, which shall teach thirty of the said town-born poor children gratis according to my true meaning and intent herein declared, THAT then the said grant of the rent or annuity aforesaid and all and every clause of the distress therein contained shall cease and be merely void and of non effect or else it shall remain and stand in full force and virtue.

## DATE OF THE GRANT.

"In witness whereof I the said Richard Cleyton have hereunto put my hand and seal. dated the ninth day of April Ao. Dni. 1602, and in the fourth and fortieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the Grace of God Queen of England, France, and Ireland Defender of the Faith.

Signed per me R. CLEYTON
Sealed and delivered by the within named Richard Cleyton in the presence of me Robert Hill, Notary Public.

p. me RONDALL STOCKTON, dyer.
WILLM. STONE
THOMAS BADALEY
THOMAS JONES
} Witnesses."

## Chapter II.

# JOHN COTTON'S GIFT.

In regard to the first educational endowments of this borough, it is instructive to note the following points :—(A) That the annuity of £10 was regularly paid to the Corporation of Newcastle for the benefit of the Grammar School, and it is still paid into the funds of the Endowed Schools ; (B) that the endowment was in expectation of and contingent on the duration of lives ; (C) that the schoolmaster should be an Oxford or Cambridge Bachelor of Arts ; (D) that he should "instruct in learning thirty poor children born and to be born within the town of Newcastle-under-Lyme." The deed does not say that they were to be children of burgesses.

Thomas Cleyton, brother of the donor, and one of the trustees, was an alderman of Newcastle. In the charter of Queen Elizabeth, 1590, he was nominated as one of the capital burgesses, and he was Mayor of Newcastle four times. On the 3rd of June, 1573, he married Alice Cotton, the sister of the second benefactor to the old Borough School, and in the same year he was elected Mayor for the first time. The other occasions were in the years 1581, 1586, and 1591. He died in 1616, the year in which Major-General Thomas Harrison was born.

Thomas Keeling, the Mayor of Newcastle, named in Richard Cleyton's grant, also held the office of Mayor four times—viz., 1589, 1593, 1601, and 1611. He was a tanner living in Bridge-street, and had his tanyard at the canal croft, and he died in 1617.

### JAMES PALIN, B.A.

During his Mayoralty of 1601–2 an item in the "Records" shows that James Palin, B.A., had been the schoolmaster for some years : most likely he succeeded Randle Davenport. After being warned about the poor results of his teaching, he was dismissed on April 1, 1602. The entry reads :—"Also in the said assembly, James

Palin, Bachelor of Arts, the schoolmaster, being called to the assembly and there according to a former speech had with him at [——— ?] before, of the dislike we had of him in regard he did not profit our scholars, did then and there yield up the place to such other as we should better like of."

In an indenture of 1609 Sir Rowland Cotton mentions that he has heard a good report of Mr. William Cole, the schoolmaster, who most likely succeeded James Palin.

When Thomas Keeling was Mayor for the last time, he copied into the "Records" an indenture made between the Mayor and Corporation of Newcastle and Sir Rowland Cotton. John Cotton, the uncle of the latter, bequeathed £100 on trust to be laid out in land in aid of the Borough School, so that "£10 yearly for ever might be had or raised to the purpose aforesaid."

This is the second endowment to the Borough School.

The following is what Thomas Keeling wrote in 1611 in the "Borough Records:"—"The true copy of a deed granted under the common seal of this borough to Sir Rowland Cotton, Knight, concerning the nomination, placing, and renewing of the schoolmaster, And that the £100 given by John Cotton, gent., shall be only employed to the use of the school."

## INDENTURE OF COTTON'S GIFT.

"This Indenture made the first day of June, 1609, in the year of the reign of our sovereign Lord James, by the grace of God, of England, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, etc., etc., the seventh, and of Scotland the forty-second, Between John Brett, Mayor of the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme, in the county of Stafford, Thomas Cleyton, etc., Capital Burgesses of the said Borough upon the one part, And Sir Rowland Cotton, of Alkington, in the county of Salop, Knight, upon the other part, Witnesseth whereas John Cotton, of Alkington aforesaid, gentleman, uncle to the said Sir Rowland, as well upon charitable disposition as also for the entire love and affection which he did have unto the town and townsmen of Newcastle aforesaid, and to the children born and to be born within the said Borough did by his last will and testament give and bequeath unto the said borough the sum of £100 of lawful money of

England, to the use and for the establishing of a free school there. And whereas also Richard Cleyton, late of London, dyer, did by his deed of feoffment give one annuity or yearly sum of ten pounds to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Capital Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, to the use of the school there to be issuing and going forth of one messuage or tenement in St. Lawrence Lane for ever with the power unto the said Thomas Cleyton, brother of the said Richard, for his life, and after his decease to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Capital Burgesses of the said Borough for ever, to place and to remove at their pleasure the schoolmaster, And yet notwithstanding did provide that if the said school should be without a sufficient schoolmaster having taken the degree of Bachelor of Arts in one of the Universities of Cambridge or Oxford by the space of two months, that then the said grant of the said annuity of £10 should cease and be merely void. And also the said Sir Rowland Cotton for the entire love he beareth to the said borough, desirous the school then may be continued and a sufficient teacher well provided for.

## WILLIAM COLE, SCHOOLMASTER.

And hearing good report of the sufficiency of Mr. William Cole, who now is master there, have satisfied the said Mayor, Bailiffs, and Capital Burgesses to the use aforesaid, the said sum of £100, now the said Mayor, Bailiffs, and Capital Burgesses for themselves and their successors Capital Burgesses of the said Borough, do covenant, promise, and grant to and with the said Sir Rowland, his heirs and assigns, by these presents, that whensoever it shall fortune the said school shall be next void and without the headmaster, the said Sir Rowland, his heirs and assigns shall have the election, nomination, and placing of the schoolmaster in and for the said school of Newcastle, And so from time to time for ever every second choice, election, and nomination, so often as the said school shall want a master, and provided always that the said Sir Rowland, his heirs and assigns, for ever, shall elect, nominate, and place such a person to be master of the said school as is a Bachelor of Arts in one of the Universities of Cambridge or Oxford, And do also make his election and nomination within one month next after the said Sir Rowland, his heirs or assigns, shall have notice

in writing from the said Mayor, Bailiffs, and Capital Burgesses for the time being or under the hands of six of them at the least for the said purpose. Otherwise, for want of a sufficient master to be elected, nominated, and placed by the said Sir Rowland, his heirs or assigns, within one month as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Capital Burgesses for the time being to make election and nomination of one to supply the place, Provided also that if the said Sir Rowland, his heirs or assigns, shall elect, nominate, and place any schoolmaster who shall not be sufficient to teach and diligent in his place, and continue honest in life and conversation, That then upon notice given to the said Sir Rowland, his heirs or assigns, if it shall appear truly and directly the schoolmaster by him instituted and inducted, to be culpable of any crime, either of life, learning, or diligence in the instruction and education of his charge, that then the master by him formerly nominated upon these reasons or any of these being declared, it shall be lawful within one month after for the said Sir Rowland, his heirs or assigns, to induct another. And if so be that either the said Sir Rowland, or otherwise his heirs or assigns, for the time being be either out of the land or otherwise be removed and obscured from the knowledge of the Mayor and burgesses where at that time he or they shall reside, that due and reasonable notice cannot be given him or them, it shall then and for that time be lawful for the Mayor then being and burgesses aforesaid to place or displace as they in their judgment and discretion shall think fit, Provided nevertheless that if by any absence or otherwise of the said Sir Rowland, his heirs or assigns, it shall or may so happen that the Mayor and Burgesses of Newcastle aforesaid do institute and induct two schoolmasters together one after another, then the said Sir Rowland, his heirs or assigns, upon the next vacancy or avoidance of the master shall have the absolute nomination and institution of the schoolmaster upon the conditions and reservations aforesaid, *videlicet*, if he, his heirs or assigns, shall within one month after knowledge given him by the Mayor then being and six burgesses, elect and establish one schoolmaster being Bachelor of Arts in one of the Universities of Cambridge or Oxford as aforesaid, And further, the said Mayor, Bailiffs, and Capital Burgesses for themselves and their successors do covenant, promise, and grant to and with the said Sir Rowland Cotton, his heirs or assigns,

## THE GIFT OF £100.

That they, the said Mayor, Bailiffs, and Capital Burgesses and their successors for ever, shall employ, bestow, and convert the said sum of £100, given and bequeathed as aforesaid, and all the profits increasing, accruing, growing, or arising by means thereof for ever to the only use and benefit of the said school of Newcastle according to the true intent and meaning of the testament of the said John Cotton, deceased, and to none other use or uses whatsoever. And for the more surety that the said sum of one hundred pounds and all profits arising thereupon shall be only employed to the use of the said school, the said Mayor, Bailiffs, and Capital Burgesses do bind themselves and their successors in the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful money of England to him, the said Sir Rowland, his heirs and assigns, to be paid if default be made in the premisses. In witness whereof the said Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses have appended their Common Seal, given the day and year first above written."

## LAND PURCHASED AT KNUTTON.

The Mayor and Capital Burgesses lost no time in investing the bequest in compliance with the directions of the benefactor, for on June 8, 1610, they completed the purchase of an estate of lands and houses situated in the township of Knutton, from Mrs. Hexsan, widow, subject to her life interest therein. On their part the Corporation covenanted that all the rents and profits of the said lands and premises should be employed for the finding and maintenance of a schoolmaster for the Free School in Newcastle for ever or in augmentation of his salary.

The thirty-two acres of land thus acquired for the old Borough School became a very profitable investment after the amalgamation of the educational charities in 1872, as only under the new governors were the mineral rights of the Rosemary Hill property developed.

## WILLIAM COTTON, BURGESS.

The following is an extract from the "Borough Records:"—"1611. This year William Cotton, gent., brother to Sir Rowland Cotton, Knight, whose uncle, John Cotton, of Alkington, gent.,

deceased, did upon his gratia, love, and affection towards this borough give by his last will and testament the sum of one hundred pounds towards the maintenance of a schoolmaster, to teach the children born or to be born within this borough, which said sum the said Sir Rowland, although he might have kept the same longer in his hands, yet, for the good of this borough, he shortly after his uncle's death paid the same to be bestowed in land in Knutton, to remain to the school for ever for this and for the love and affection this borough doth the said William Cotton, they have freely bestowed his burgess-ship upon him."

In the following year Mr. William Cotton was elected Mayor, and two years later—viz., in 1614—Sir Rowland Cotton filled the same office.

William Cotton was the Mayor of Newcastle on two occasions—in 1624 and in 1631—and in 1627 his brother, Sir Rowland, was one of the two members of Parliament for this borough.

## THE FIRST SCHOOL.

The first school was built near to the tower of St. Giles's Church on the south side, and tradition relates that it was erected about the year 1655. In this case tradition is wrong, because there are two entries in the "Borough Records" which prove that the school was in existence at least 40 years earlier.

"1614. Humphrey Liversage was admitted this year unto his liberties upon this condition following, it is to say that he shall from time to time keep and maintain the windows of the church, schoolhouse, and steeple in sufficient repair, and shall yearly have from the town VIs. VIIId."

"1622. The 4th day of October, anno domini, 1622, Humphrey Liversage came before the Company, being a full assembly, and here resigned his place of a burgess, and at the same assembly the same company admitted Thomas Liversage, his son, upon the same terms and condition, his father was admitted—viz., 'That he shall from time to time keep and maintain the church windows, the schoolhouse windows, and steeple windows with glazing sufficiently, and shall have yearly from the town VIs. VIIId.'"

Evidently there was a school near the church tower as early as 1614, and it is not at all improbable that the school was in existence before Richard Cleyton's gift in 1602. Most likely the school was built by the Corporation in the time of their energetic schoolmaster, William Sabshed, who performed the duties of the Borough Schoolmaster from 1565 until about 1586.

THE OLD ORME SCHOOL.

## Chapter III.

# THE REV. EDWARD ORME.

If to any particular one of the donors of educational endowments to this borough special gratitude should be expressed because of the results of his benefaction, then that particular donor would be the Rev. Edward Orme. He was headmaster of the old Borough School, and in his will he made a bequest to increase the salary of his successors, and he gave a sum of money to the Mayor and Corporation for paying the fees of poor apprentices. Although he resigned in 1668, his interest in the education of the children of Newcastle did not cease, for when he died in February, 1705, he left most of his estate to found a school, which ultimately became so important that the Charity Commissioners utilized in 1872 the capital of the Orme School to build the present High School and the Orme Girls' School. The foundation of the Orme School will be treated separately.

## RICHARD ORME, SCHOOLMASTER.

Although there is no absolute proof, it would appear from entries in the "Borough Records," quoted below, that Richard Orme, the father of the Rev. Edward Orme, was the first schoolmaster to benefit by the endowments of Richard Cleyton and John Cotton. It must be remembered that the first-named was to be paid on the death of Cicely, Richard Cleyton's widow, and the second when the life interest of Mrs. Hexsan should terminate.

"24th July, 1621.—It is agreed the day and year above said concerning Maister Orme, our schoolmaster, that the said Mr. Orme shall first procure Sir Rowland Cotton, Knight, his approbation for his teaching of school here, and then is to have five pounds for this quarter till Michaelmas, and afterwards to have twenty marks yearly for the town scholars, and to have it affirmed unto him under the town seal."

"18th April, 1622.—It is also agreed at the same assembly that Sir Rowland Cotton, Knight, and his heirs shall have the nomination and

election of three of the next schoolmasters, as they shall happen to fall, by reason the town have made choice of three already, by his allowance, but not by his nomination or choice, And so afterwards according to the covenants contained in the deed betwixt the town and him."

"1st October, 1622.—Concerning Mr. Orme our schoolmaster, It is agreed that the law made and set down the 24th of July last, to stand afoot, and further that the XX. marks then agreed upon shall be paid quarterly, and to be levied from time to time, as the company shall think fit."

Two of the three schoolmasters appointed by the town and by the allowance, though not by the nomination of Sir Rowland Cotton, were William Cole and Richard Orme. Evidently, the name of an intermediate schoolmaster is missing.

## FIRST PAYMENT OF CLEYTON'S GIFT.

Mrs. Cicely Cleyton most likely died in 1625, for in June of that year thirty poor scholars were appointed to be taught by the Newcastle schoolmaster. The following two entries in the "Records" show that Sir Richard Cleyton's gift was now available:—"14th June, 1625.—At the assembly above said it was agreed upon that Mr. Ottiwell Stubbs, Mr. Raphe Keeling, Thomas Jenyns, and James Swynnerton shall nominate and appoint the XXX. poor scholars to be taught gratis." "18th March, 1626.—The day and year above said it is concluded and agreed by this company with a general consent that Mr. Orme, our schoolmaster, shall as well have *that benefit now accruing* by the gift of Mr. Richard Cleyton, as all lands formerly purchased with the gift of Mr John Cotton, for the benefit of the school, when it shall happen."

It looks as though the last sentence should go on thus:—"When it shall happen that the life interest of Mrs. Hexsan shall end."

## FIRST PAYMENT OF COTTON'S GIFT.

It was a pledge to Mr. Orme, the schoolmaster, that he should receive the whole of the school endowments directly they became available; but this did not occur till nearly fifteen years afterwards, no reference being made to the subject in the "Records" until 1640, when the following entry appears:—"December 22, 1640.—At the Assembly before said the Company in

*confirmation of a former grant,* at an assembly held for this borough, the 18th day of March, 1626, in the time of John Brett, Esq., then Mayor, have granted unto the said Richard Orme the messuage or tenement in Knutton, and the lands, tenements, and hereditaments thereon so belonging, whereon John Wedgwood doth now inhabit, purchased with the gift of Mr. John Cotton for the use of the school, and that he shall have a lease of it for seven years, if he so long live and continue schoolmaster, and at the end thereof a further term during such time as he shall be schoolmaster, giving security for repair and upholding the buildings and paying yearly the proportionable part of the money covenanted to be paid to John Brett, Esq., and his [——— ?], Lord of the manor of Knutton, for an heriot." William Orme, the brother of Richard Orme, the schoolmaster, was granted the tenement at Knutton in 1648.

## EDWARD ORME, SCHOOLMASTER.

The next entry in the "Records" which deals with the borough school mentions the death of Richard Orme and the election of his son Edward to be schoolmaster in 1654. "20th May, 1654.—Whereas Mr. Richard Orme, our godly, diligent, and learned schoolmaster, deceased upon Tuesday last, and the nomination of the next schoolmaster belongeth of William Cotton, of Bellaport, Esq., who having intimation thereof by a letter sent from Mr. Mayor, thereby signifying unto him the deceased, Mr. Orme's desire that his son, Mr. Edward Orme, having taken the degree of Bachelor of Arts in the University of Cambridge, might succeed him in his place, the said Mr. Cotton returned under his hand his consent that the said Mr. Edward Orme should be schoolmaster if the town approved, which the company did at this assembly, and do grant unto the said Edward Orme all the lands and revenues to the schoolmaster of the said borough belongeth." In the second old vellum register of St. Giles's Church the first entry at the top of the third page is as follows:—"Edward Orme fil Richard Orme et ux. bapt. Maii 31, 1629." The burial entry of Richard Orme, schoolmaster, occurs on May 24, 1654. On March 17, 1655, there is the burial entry of "Mrs. Orme,"

## FIRST MARRIAGE OF THE REV. EDWARD ORME.

Two years later the Rev. Edward Orme was married for the first time. The following is the entry for the year 1656:—"Mr. Edward Orme and Mrs. Marie Beardmore, daughter of Mistress Bridget Brereton, of this town, widow, were published in the church, the last day of publishing being the tenth of ffebruary, and married the 25th of ffebruary. In witness of Mr. Raphe Hall, minister, Mrs. Elizabeth Sherwin, widow, and Edward Sherwin; by Thomas Wood, Mayor." This form of entry was in accordance with the Act of Cromwell, 1653, whereby marriage was made a civil contract. Amongst the christenings for 1657 was:—"Richard, the son of Mr. Edward Orme and of Mary his wife, March 1st."

In the same year the Rev. Edward Orme's first wife died:—"Mrs. Mary Orme, wife of Mr. Edward Orme, buried September 10th, 1657."

## THE REV. EDWARD ORME, BURGESS.

In 1661 the Rev. Edward Orme became a burgess, as appears by the following entries in the "Records:"—"The Assembly aforesaid for the love and affection they owed to Mr. Richard Orme, late schoolmaster, have freely given to Mr. Edward Orme and Richard, his son, their Burgess-ship, the said Edward took his oath, the said Richard, his son, to take his oath at XXI. years of age." "23rd July, 1661.—At this Assembly the Company aforesaid did freely bestow upon Mr. Edward Orme, our schoolmaster, and Richard, his son, their burgess-ship, the said Edward Orme then sworn, and the said Richard to take his oath at the age of XXI. years." In 1666, the Rev. Edward Orme was married for the second time:—"Mr. Edward Orme and Elizabeth Liversage married October 25th, 1666:" and next year a daughter was born:—"Elizabeth Orme, daughter to Mr. Edward Orme and Elizabeth, born August 27th, 1667."

## RESIGNATION OF THE REV. EDWARD ORME.

There are four items of interest in connection with the Borough School recorded for the year 1668. First of all, Mr. Orme was ordered to pay his rates or "lewns":—"11th August, 1668.—

Ordered that Mr. Orme pay what lewns he is assessed to and what at present are behind." Evidently there was some difference between the Corporation and himself, for he refused to act as the schoolmaster, and consequently he resigned :—" 1st December, 1668.—This day this Company did elect Mr. John Smith, of Congleton, for our schoolmaster (Mr. Orme having refused to teach here any longer), and 'tis ordered that Mr. Mayor, Mr. Brett, and the Town Clerk go to Mr. Cotton for his consent to make presentation of him, which was accordingly done, and the said Mr. Smith presented by him." Also, there was trouble about the payment of Richard Cleyton's gift, as the following entry shows :—" 4th November, 1668.—At this Assembly it was agreed that Mr. Richard Bagnall and Mr. Raphe Keeling be sent unto to treat concerning our school interest in St. Lawrence Lane in London, and that what they shall do therein this Company do consent to stand to."

## JOHN SMITH, SCHOOLMASTER.

Although Mr. John Smith, of Congleton, was duly elected by Mr. Cotton and the Newcastle Corporation to be the schoolmaster, he really was not eligible for the post, as he was not a graduate of Oxford or Cambridge University. Accordingly, there is the following entry in the " Records : "—" 22nd December, 1668.—At this Assembly, Mr. Thomas Oulton, our minister, being Bachelor of Arts, is elected schoolmaster for the present until such time that Mr. John Smith, lately chosen, do return from the University and be capacitated for the place, and then the said Mr. Smith to enter and be admitted schoolmaster." " 20th January, 1669.—Willus Brett, Mayor. Agreed at this Assembly that Mr. Edward Orme, our late schoolmaster, and Mr. John Smith, our present schoolmaster, be paid their arrears, which are ten pounds, out of the town purse, which ten pounds should have been paid by Robert Shaw to the town, but is yet unpaid by him." The Rev. Edward Orme's second wife died in 1684 :—" Elizabeth, the wife of Mr. Edward Orme, minister. Buried November 2nd, 1684." Mr. Sherratt at that time was the minister at St. Giles's Church, but the following entry in the " Records " indicates that the Rev. Edward Orme was *locum tenens* in 1687 :—" June, 1687—Ordered that if Mr. Sherratt do within the space of a fortnight resign his living and quit his claim

as minister to this place that then the sum of fifteen pounds shall be paid to him, he satisfying Mr. Orme for supplying the cure in his absence, otherwise the former vote to stand good." It is rather significant that in the burial entry of the Rev. Edward Orme he is described as "curate."

## THIRD MARRIAGE OF THE REV. EDWARD ORME.

He was married for the third and last time in 1692 :—"Mr. Edward Orme and Mrs. Elizabeth Lawton married February 25th, 1692." It is a curious coincidence that all three marriages were solemnized on the 25th of the month, and that two of them were in February. I think that on the occasion of his last marriage he gave £10 to the Mayor of the borough towards paying the fees for poor apprentices. Sir John Leveson-Gower gave £6 19s. 6d. for the same purpose about the same time, and in the "Records" under date of May 24, 1692, the Mayor, Mr. William Lawton, rendered an account of the money spent in putting out the apprentices. The Rev. Edward Orme's burial entry is thus recorded :—"Mr. Edward Orme, curate, buried February 28th, 1705." I believe there is no foundation for the statement that he hanged himself in the porch of Tittensor Hall. In a book on the Orme pedigree, published privately, the Rev. Edward Orme is stated to be the son of William Orme, of Hanch Hall. This is certainly not a fact, though no doubt his father, Richard Orme, was related to the Ormes of Hanch Hall and Tittensor Hall. As the history of the borough Free School, which became the old Grammar School, is being taken in chronological order, an account of the bequests contained in the Rev. Edward Orme's will is deferred.

## Chapter IV.

# JOHN COWELL'S BEQUEST.

The Rev. Edward Orme became the borough schoolmaster in 1654, and in the following year John Cowell, of Knutton, in a codicil to his will, dated July 9, 1655, made this bequest :—"Also I give unto the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses of the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme in the county of Stafford over and above what I have before in my will given to them, one hundred pounds to the intent that with the same they shall with all convenient speed purchase lands of the yearly value of five pounds at the least for an addition to the yearly maintenance of the school of Newcastle-under-Lyme and to be paid to the Schoolmaster of the said school and the Schoolmaster thereof for ever PROVIDED that the children of the inhabitants of Knutton and Chesterton shall be freely taught at the said school of Newcastle-under-Lyme for ever." This codicil was added to the will in August, 1657. The first part of the above extract relates to the money which John Cowell left in order to found a Dame's School in Newcastle, an account of which will be given later.

## JOHN COWELL'S TOMB.

Mr. Percy W. L. Adams, in his book on "Wolstanton," quotes the following from the "Gentleman's Magazine" of April, 1811 :—"On a plain tomb at the west end of the north aisle, near the entrance door [of Wolstanton Church] in capitals :—'Here lyeth the bodies of John Cowell, sometime of this parish, Yeoman ; and Christabell his wife ; which sayd John left land being inheritance, to nine severall persons. Allso hee hath given to the free Schoole of Newcastle one hundred pounds. Allso hee hath given to the Poore of Knutton and Chesterton thirtie and two shillings a yeare for ever. Allso hee hath given to the Towne of Newcastle aforesaid Tenn pounds to put poore children to 'prentice ; and to the South side of Woolstanton parish twentie pounds to put poore children to 'prentice ;

Which sayd John and Christabell departed this life, the 13th day of Aprill, in the year of our Lord God, 1659.

Death is the end of all flesh ;
The liveing should lay it to hart.' "

There is no evidence that the inhabitants of Knutton and Chesterton ever exercised the privilege thus conferred, or even that they were aware of its existence.

## THE POOL HEAD MEADOW.

The following is extracted from the "Borough Records" :—"11th April, 1664. At this assembly Thomas Burslem and Richard Weever were appointed to be feoffees for the town concerning the one hundred pounds of John Cowell's given to the school, which £100 Robert Shaw is to have according to a former order giving security by law." On March 10, 1665, an indenture was drawn up reciting the above bequest, and that the sum of £100 had been paid to the Mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses, who with the consent of the executors had with the same purchased of Robert Shaw, brazier, for the uses aforesaid the lands thereafter mentioned, being of the yearly value of £5 at the least, which premises had been conveyed to them by indenture, dated March 8 then instant, and that Robert Shaw had desired to become tenant thereof at the clear yearly rent of £5 ; it is witnessed that the Mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses, in consideration of the rent thereafter reserved, demised to Robert Shaw, his executors, administrators, and assigns "All that meadow commonly called the Pool Head Meadow, as the same is now divided situate lying and being in the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme aforesaid or within the liberties of the same Borough between one Meadow called the Musse Meadow upon the west side, the Pool heretofore belonging to the Duke of Lancaster called the Castle Pool on the East side, the Pool Field on the South side, and a Meadow called the Cock Meadow on the North side, And also all those eight day works of arable land (be it more or less) situate lying and being in one of the Common Fields belonging to the said Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme and within the liberties of the said Borough called the Pool Field now or late in the possession of the said Robert Shaw," for the term of 99 years from the date thereof, at the yearly rent of £5, payable at Lady-day and Michaelmas,

clear of all deductions. Not any of this property purchased with John Cowell's gift of £100 from Robert Shaw in 1665 is now held in trust for the benefit of the endowed schools.

## SALE OF THE POOL HEAD MEADOW.

The Pool Head Meadows were sold by the Corporation in 1770 by public auction for £333. Part only of the eight days' work of land in Pool Field, which comprised the rest of the land bought with Cowell's gift, was sold in various lots by public auction in the year 1799 to Mr. Joseph Mellard, but it is difficult to specify the amount of the purchase money, for he bought other property at the same time, which was all comprised in one conveyance, and the price of the Pool Field land is not separately distinguished in the conveyance. The Corporation remained the owners of three days' work until the time of the enclosure of the Town Fields. Then they received an allotment in the Stubbs Field in lieu of the Pool Field land. Part of that allotment they gave in exchange to the Marsh Trust for land which formed the sites of the Grammar School at the corner of Hanover-street and School-street and the old National School, and the remaining part of such allotment, consisting of only 2 roods and 34 perches, they sold in 1833 to Robert Fenton for £100.

## DECREE IN CHANCERY, 1740.

Having thus disposed of lands they had held in trust for the master of the free school for about £500, most likely more than less, the Corporation invested the money in no other security than the hands of their own treasurer, and they used it only for their own corporate purposes. This transaction appears to have been conducted under the pretext of authority from a decree of the Court of Chancery, dated Feb. 7, 1740. The suit in which this decree was made was instituted for the purpose of establishing a deed, by which the Corporation in 1684, before surrendering their charters to King Charles II., had conveyed all their property in trust for one thousand years to Sir Thomas Bellott, Bart., William Leveson-Gower, Esq., William Parker, Esq., John Turton, Esq., John Bagnall, gent., and Walter Cotton, gent., for certain charitable purposes, in order to secure the benefit thereof to the town and to avoid the consequence of the forfeiture of all their lands, rents, and hereditaments whatsoever.

Such deed was ultimately set aside by the decree, and it was thereby directed in substance that the Corporation should pay a certain sum annually in satisfaction of all such sums as the Corporation ever received for the use of the poor, and of the profits of all lands, tenements, or hereditaments, whereof they were seized for their benefit, except the sum of £600 given by Lord Ward, and the profits of the lands purchased from James Colbourne; and that such annual payment should be made by the Corporation over and above the usual payment, one of which was £12 per annum to the Grammar School. Included in this sum of £12 was the rent of £5 reserved on the lease of the lands purchased with Cowell's gift, the term of which, at the time this decree was made, had not expired.

## CHARITY COMMISSIONERS' REPORT, 1825.

In the Report of the Charity Commissioners, 1825, there occurs in this connection the following sentence:—"The Corporation seem to have construed the decree as exonerating them from any further payment to the Grammar School beyond this £12, but it appears doubtful whether such is the true construction of the decree, and whether they are not responsible for the full value of the property disposed of by them as above mentioned." The Corporation still pay to the Governors of the Endowed Schools the original annual rent of £5 in regard to John Cowell's gift.

## WILLIAM ORME.

In 1663, Mr. William Orme, the uncle of the Rev. Edward Orme, received a new lease of the property at Kuntton. It is thus referred to in the "Records":—"Oct. 3, 1663. Agreed also that William Orme have a new lease commencing at our Lady Day, 1664, repaying 14s. to the town and paying all lewns and duties and freeing the town from the heriot due to Mr. Brett for the future." It had been agreed that the heriot due to the lord of the manor in regard to this property should be £2 6s. 8d. at the end of every 21 years for ever.

## EDWARD JACKSON, SCHOOLMASTER.

Mr. John Smith, who succeeded the Rev. Edward Orme in 1668 as borough schoolmaster, resigned in 1673. The following are extracted from the "Records":—"August 21, 1673. At

this meeting Mr. John Smith, our present schoolmaster, desired to desist from teaching any longer in this town and thereupon Mr. Edward Jackson was nominated schoolmaster provided Mr. Cotton approved of the said Mr. Jackson, and to that end Mr. Mayor (Thomas Shaw), Mr. Brett and Mr. Weever (Aldermen) were desired to go to Mr. Cotton who accordingly did approve of the said Mr. Jackson, and Mr. Cotton to have the election, nomination and presentation of the two next schoolmasters to the same school as the same school shall respectively become void." "22nd January, 1674. At this assembly it is agreed that Mr. Smith our late schoolmaster in consideration of what money was due to him at Xmas last and also for his pains since that time in the school and especially for that he hath been so civil in departing from the school that he shall have the sum of fifteen pounds in hand paid him by the receiver and that the receiver shall receive for the Town's use ten pounds due from London at Lady day [this was Richard Cleyton's gift] which will be then due for the year past and three pounds of Orme's Rent [William Orme for land and tenement at Knutton] and five and twenty shillings of Robt. Shaw's money [one quarter's rent of John Cowell's gift] which will be £14 5s. towards the fifteen pounds and the new schoolmaster to receive the rest."

## APPOINTMENT OF AN USHER.

Evidently the borough free school was prospering, for in 1673, at the time of Mr. Smith's resignation, it was agreed "to allow £5 yearly for three years towards the maintenance of an usher in case the schoolmaster be burdened with a greater number of scholars than he is able to teach and Mr. Mayor and the Company to choose the said usher." The following baptismal entry occurs in the fourth register of St. Giles's:—"Theodosia Jacson daughter of Mr. Edward Jacson, scoolemaster, born February 14th and baptized Feb. 26th, 1678."

## MR. POTTS, SCHOOLMASTER.

Four years later, Mr. Jackson resigned, according to the following extract from the "Records":—"1682. At the Assembly aforesaid Mr. Mayor informed the Company that Mr. Jackson our present Schoolmaster had given him notice that he would leave the Town, and afterwards Mr. Mayor have received a letter from Mr. Cotton

the said Mr. Cotton did therein fix upon and present Mr. Potts of Sandbach for our new schoolmaster." At the same time certain repairs at the school were paid for by the Corporation :— "Agreed that the receiver do pay the workmen for making the Schoolmaster's new seat and doing what work is done or to be done in the school." The following extracts from the "Records" have reference to the Borough School :—"October 6th, 1685. Ordered that Mr. Potts have fifty shillings paid him for half a year's pay for his usher since Lady day, And that the five pounds be continued to the usher for the time to come." "4th August, 1685. At the assembly it was agreed that Mr. Paul Wood should receive 40s. for a gratuity for his two sermons on the thanksgiving day, provided he give no disturbance on pretence of right to the Curacy."

## MR. WOOD, SCHOOLMASTER.

"9th March, 1694. Ordered that Mr. Wood, schoolmaster, have £5 paid him by the Receiver, And that the same be allowed back out of the interest money due from Mr. Hill being Cotton's money, and that Mr. Hill have notice that the Corporation will [require ?] the £100 lent him being money belonging to the school, at midsummer next." Evidently the services of the usher were required from 1673 onwards, and it would appear that the Rev. Paul Wood succeeded Mr. Potts as borough schoolmaster.

CHAPTER V.

# THE GIFTS OF JOHN LOWE, WILLIAM BEARD, AND WILLIAM COTTON.

Towards the end of the seventeenth century and within a space of seven years three other donors endowed the Borough School. By a deed bearing date the 10th day of November, 1685, John Lowe, of Marston Montgomery, in the county of Derby, granted to Job Peacock, Thomas Cope, and William Woolley, all of the same place, and to Roger Mills, of Newton, in the county of Stafford, and their heirs, a yearly rent of £3, issuing out of a messuage or burgage with the appurtenances in Newcastle, payable half-yearly on the 1st day of May and the 1st day of November, with a power of distress in case of non-payment, upon trust to pay yearly to the Usher of the Free School of Newcastle by quarterly or half-yearly payments £2 10s., and to distribute the other 10s. to thirty poor people of the borough of Newcastle, at the discretion of the minister and churchwardens, on the first Sunday in Lent, and on Palm Sunday. The deed is witnessed by John Townsend, John Townsend, jun., and William Ditch.

The money was charged upon five houses at the top of Friar's-lane.

## WILLIAM BEARD'S GIFT.

By an indenture dated the 13th of June, 1690, William Beard, of the borough of Newcastle, granted to Samuel Rock, the Mayor, the two justices of the peace, the two bailiffs, and the twenty Capital Burgesses and their successors a yearly rent-charge of 41 shillings, payable on the 25th day of March, yearly, issuing out of four days' work of arable land and meadow ground in one of the Common Town fields belonging to the said borough, called Clayton Field, lying near the Barn's Ford, and out of another day's work of arable land and meadow in another of the said common fields called the Brampton, on the Red Flatt, To the intent that the same

should be employed in manner following (that is to say) "to the Minister of the said Borough for the time being to preach a sermon on Saint Mark's Day or the day after if it should fall on a Sunday or Market Day, in the Church of Newcastle 20 shillings, to the Clerk of the said Church one shilling," ten shillings to be distributed in two-penny bread amongst such poor and best deserving persons as should then be present to hear the said sermon.

## GIFT TO THE SCHOOLMASTER.

"The sum of 10 shillings to the Schoolmaster of the Free School of the said Borough as often as he should be present with the said scholars to hear the said sermon," the several sums above-mentioned to be distributed after the death of the donor by the said Mayor, Bailiffs, and Capital Burgesses, with the consent of his heirs. And a power of distress was given in case of non-payment for 20 days, and it was provided that if the Minister of the Parish Church should refuse to preach, the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Capital Burgesses should pay the said 20 shillings to some other Minister whom they should choose, and if there should be no Schoolmaster or he should refuse to attend with his scholars the said 10 shillings payable to him should be distributed amongst the poor persons as aforesaid.

The Duke of Sutherland is the owner of the land in the Clayton Field and The Brampton, upon which these payments are made.

## WILLIAM BEARD.

When James II., by an Order in Council, in accordance with a clause contained in his charter of 1685 to the Borough of Newcastle, removed the Mayor and most of the Capital Burgesses from their offices in 1687, he appointed William Beard to be the Mayor. The following is his burial entry in the Parish Register:—"Mr. William Beard, Alderman, buried July 31st, 1690." His special endowments were no doubt influenced by the national Revolution. Although in 1687 he was the nominee of King James II., who next year was obliged to flee the country, mainly because he had tried by unconstitutional means to establish the Roman Catholic religion, yet in 1690 William Beard left a lasting record that he wished to uphold the Protestant faith. Two years later by another supporter of the

Established Church the whole teaching of the early Borough or Free School in Newcastle became changed to the type of the old Grammar Schools which played an important educational part for several centuries.

## WILLIAM COTTON'S GIFT.

By an indenture dated the 16th of June, 1692, the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses, in consideration of the sum of £100 paid to them by William Cotton, of Bellaport, in the county of Salop, Esquire, and freely given to be laid out for the purchase of lands for the use of the Schoolmaster of the borough and his successors, granted to William Cotton and his heirs "the four first and next donations, collations, presentations, and nominations of a schoolmaster, to the school of the borough, whensoever the said school shall be void, after the date of these presents, by death, resignation, removal, or any other way whatsoever;" and it was also agreed that the Corporation "should present, nominate, and appoint a schoolmaster to the school in the first and next turn, voidance, or vacancy that should thereafter happen," and that the said William Cotton and his heirs should present a schoolmaster in the second and third turns after, and so to continue for ever. And it was agreed that the person so to be nominated should be

## QUALIFICATIONS OF THE SCHOOLMASTER.

a learned man, not under the degree of a Bachelor of Arts of one of the Universities of Cambridge or Oxford, and of honest, sober, and good life and conversation, and fit for the employment, and so as such person be of the Protestant religion, and no Papist, Romish priest, Jesuit, or Schismatic, and able and capable of discharging the duty of the place, and that shall, during his continuance in the said place and employment, teach diligently the sons of the burgesses and of the poor inhabitants of the borough *gratis*, in the languages of Latin and Greek, and shall not absent himself from the said school by the space of three days in the whole in any one year that he shall be schoolmaster, except on Holy and Festival days and times heretofore usual and customary." A penal clause followed, having for its object the compulsory removal of the schoolmaster in case he should "hear, say, or sing mass, or shall be

scandalous, ignorant, illiterate, or cruel, or negligent by the space of three days, or shall refuse to teach and instruct the sons of the burgesses and of the poor inhabitants *gratis*, or of other foreigners, for a reasonable salary, or otherwise misdemean himself in his place or office, to the hindrance or prejudice of visitors' learning or good manners.'' And it was further agreed that upon any vacancy of a schoolmaster taking place, if the party whose turn it was to nominate should neglect to do so for the space of six months, then the other party might nominate in his or their stead. The corporate seal of the borough was affixed to one part, and to the other part William Cotton, the benefactor, set his hand and seal in the presence of Philip Cotton, John Hollins, William Burslem, and H. Hatrell.

There are three points in regard to this endowment which are important to notice :—(1) It was the first bequest which required the sons of burgesses to be taught ; (2) Latin and Greek were to comprise the curriculum ; (3) the sum of £100 was to be laid out in the purchase of lands for the use of the schoolmaster.

## CORPORATION BOND TO WILLIAM COTTON.

Before the indenture was drawn up and duly signed, the Corporation gave security that they would apply the money as desired. There is this entry in the '' Records : ''—'' 18th August, 1691. Whereas William Cotton, of Bellaport, Esq., out of a charitable disposition is minded to give to this borough the sum of one hundred pounds, the interest thereof to be paid yearly to the Free School of this borough, And to the end the said money may be laid out and disposed of for the use and benefit of the said school in manner aforesaid, It is this day ordered and agreed that the Corporation shall give security under their Common Seal to the said Mr. Cotton for applying the said £100 and interest for the use and benefit of the said school, and also that Mr. Mayor, John Lawton, Esq., Mr. George Wood, Mr. Thomas Horderne, Mr. William Baddiley, and Mr. Humphrey Burrows give their bond to the said Mr. Cotton to the purpose aforesaid, they being saved harmless from such their undertaking to Mr. Cotton in manner aforesaid by the Corporation under their Common Seal.''

But the Corporation did not invest the money in land : they kept it in their own hands and paid £5 per year to the funds of the School, and the same interest is still paid to the governors of the three endowed schools.

## CURRICULUM OF THE FREE SCHOOL.

Although no records exist which show the course of instruction pursued in the early "Free" or "Borough" School, yet an inquiry into the Corporation Charities, which was made in 1837 by a committee appointed by the Corporation, proved that the school in Newcastle, maintained by the borough authorities and endowed by Richard Cleyton and by John Cotton, was for the poor inhabitants of the town, and that they were taught English subjects. Nowhere in any of the original records before 1692 is the school referred to as the "Grammar" School. It became such by William Cotton's gift in that year, contrary to the wishes of the original donors. It will be noticed that William Cotton desired Latin and Greek to be taught to the scholars, and the latter might be the sons of burgesses.

Richard Cleyton desired that the schoolmaster should "teach and instruct in learning 30 poor children born within the borough of Newcastle *gratis* and without other reward," whilst John Cotton merely provided that his money should be used for the establishment of a Free School in the borough of Newcastle.

## CORPORATION INQUIRY IN 1837.

The committee appointed by the Corporation in 1837 took particular trouble to find out what was meant by a "Free School" in the seventeenth century. They wanted to find out if it signified a "Grammar School" where Latin and Greek were mainly taught, but in no case was this so. They could find no instance of the name "Free School" applied to designate a merely classical school, but in two other places in this same county they found that the exact expression was used to signify an English school.

## PARALLEL CASES AT CHEADLE AND LEIGH.

I quote these instances from their report :— "Thus, at Cheadle, a Mr. Stubbs, by will dated 16 October, 1655, gave certain lands at Heath House,

in the parish of Cheddleton, on condition that £20 yearly should be paid to the school of Cheadle, for the teaching and instructing of 12 poor children of the parishes of Cheadle and Kingsley. And again at Leigh, by indenture dated 2nd June, 1620, Mr. Stephen Spencer conveyed to certain persons named, and their heirs, certain lands, the income therefrom to be applied to the maintenance of a schoolmaster, and he desired that the said master should freely and without further recompense teach and instruct in learning so many of the poor children of the parish of Leigh as their parents should send. In both these instances the schools are used for an English education.''

## THE BOROUGH SCHOOL BECOMES THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

It is very significant that John Lowe's gift in 1685, seven years *before* the alteration, was for the Usher of the '' Free School '' of Newcastle, and in 1690, two years *before* the alteration, William Beard's gift was to the Schoolmaster of the '' Free School '' of the borough; but in 1704, twelve years *after* the alteration, Mr. Edward Orme's gift of £40 was to the Schoolmaster of the '' Grammar School.''

Also, in the '' Borough Records '' prior to the year 1692, the school never by any chance received the appellation '' Grammar,'' though the name frequently occurs after that date. The following extracts are from the '' Records: ''—

'' 24 May, 1692. It is agreed at this assembly that the instrument in writing now drawn and read by Mr. Hatrell concerning the Free School of this borough be given under the Common Seal thereof to William Cotton, Esq., of Bellaport, in consideration of a hundred pounds out of his pious and charitable inclination, given by him to this Corporation for the benefit and advantage of the said school.''

'' 22nd June, 1692. At this assembly it was ordered that Mr. Hatrell have forty shillings paid him by the Receiver for his care and pains going several journeys to William Cotton, Esq., of Bellaport, and making and preparing writings betwixt Mr. Cotton and this borough about the hundred pounds given by Mr. Cotton to the Free School of this borough.''

## PHILIP AND ROWLAND COTTON, BURGESSES.

"Philip Cotton, of Bellaport, gent., sworn a burgess of this borough upon the account of the great kindness and charity this borough hath received from the said Mr. Cotton, his uncle, to the Free School of this Borough."

"2nd July, 1695. Ordered that three pounds or thereabouts be laid out as Mr. Mayor shall think fit and sent as a present from the Corporation to Rowland Cotton, of Bellaport, Esq."

"6th August, 1695. Agreed that Rowland Cotton, of Bellaport, Esq., be admitted a Burgess of this Borough (Gratis), if he please to accept of the same."

Rowland Cotton was the Mayor of Newcastle in 1697 and in 1699 he was elected one of the two members of Parliament for the borough.

## Chapter VI.

# 18th CENTURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL MASTERS.

When Mr. William Cotton endowed the Free School of Newcastle with £100 in 1692, Mr. Paul Wood, or Mr. Ward [his name is written both "Wood" and "Ward" in the "Records"], was the schoolmaster. The Rev. Edward Orme's aunt at this time was tenant of the lands at Knutton bought with Mr. John Cotton's endowment, 1609. The following are extracts from the "Records" relating thereto:—"28th December, 1692. Ordered that John Burgess and Samuel Bell take care in falling all such wood and timber now growing upon Orme's tenement in Knutton and the money so raised by sale thereof be employed towards the building of a new barn in the place where the old barn did stand and that they provide brick and other materials for the doing thereof and that all such money that shall be wanting over and above what the schoolmaster and widow Orme are agreed to allow be paid by the Corporation, and that the said John Burgess and Samuel Bell be paid for their pains."

## THE FARM AT KNUTTON.

"July 1st, 1693. Ordered that if Mr. Ward schoolmaster pay to John Burgess and Samuel Bell by Michaelmas next five pounds towards the building of Orme's barn in Knutton and that widow Orme perform work with her team and in straw to the value of four pounds already done and to be done and the same do not amount to four pounds then widow Orme to make it up in money at the judgment of the said John Burgess and Samuel Bell, then they the said Burgess and Bell are to go on in building the said barn and the Corporation is to make up what money shall be wanting out of the Town Stock, the Corporation having an allowance of the wood and timber growing upon the lands belonging to the said widow Orme's tenement, And in case they the said Mr. Ward and Widow Orme refuse

to pay and allow as aforesaid towards the said building in manner aforesaid then the said Barn not to be built."

"4th July, 1699. Ordered that widow Orme of Knutton, Robert Shaw, John Bagnall, George Hollams, Widow Welch, and Thomas Emery, senior, be respectively presented at the Town charge for recovering of what is due from them for the use of the Schoolmaster or Town."

"26th December, 1700.—Agreed that Samuel Orme of Knutton be admitted tenant to the messuage and lands in Knutton now in the holding of his Mother, paying aforehand rent and the same rent that is now paid."

## THE FIRST NEWCASTLE LIBRARY.

In 1677 a loft and library were erected at the bottom of St. Giles's Church at the town's expense and in 1692 the library was transferred to the School in the Churchyard close by. "3rd December, 1692. Ordered that the books in the library be delivered to Mr. Ward Schoolmaster to be kept in the school and that the wall of the library be pulled down that seats may be made in the said library."

In 1695 the "Church School" was tiled by order of the Corporation.

## EDWARD ORME'S BEQUEST TO THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

The last endowment to the old Free School of the borough which had become a Grammar School in 1692 was a bequest of £40 by the Rev. Edward Orme in February, 1705. The extract from his will is as follows:—"Item I give to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses of Newcastle-under-Lyme aforesaid the sum of forty pounds to be by them put out to interest and the interest paid yearly to the Schoolmaster of the Grammar School of Newcastle aforesaid and to his successors for ever." The Corporation received the £40 and have regularly paid £2 per annum interest for this sum. It is still paid and is included in the amount of £20 annually received by the Governors of the Endowed Schools from the Corporation.

Ten years later there is an entry in the "Records" which shows that the Grammar School master became a burgess. "6th January,

1715. Ordered that Mr. Richard Booker Schoolmaster be admitted to the rights and privileges of this Borough if he please to accept the same gratis."

## A NEW GRAMMAR SCHOOL BUILT.

A few years later the first school, which was near the tower of St. Giles's Church, was pulled down and a new one was erected close by in Church-street. Almost at the same time a new Town Hall and a new church were built. The following extracts refer to the school:—"December 15th, 1719. Agreed at this assembly that upon taking down the Old School with the Church that thereupon the house in the holding of John Griffith be converted into a School or otherwise be sold and the money arising therefrom be applied for the erecting thereof."

"April 14th, 1720. Ordered and agreed that the house in the Lower Street late in possession of John Stevenson be sold to the best purchaser and that the money arising therefrom be laid out towards building a new school."

"August 11th, 1720. Ordered that the Malthouse purchased of Joseph Smallwood be converted into a School house and that it be left to Mr. Mayor and the Aldermen to make what agreement they shall think proper for such alteration."

"June 12th, 1722. Ordered and agreed at this assembly that the New School intended to be built be entirely left to Mr. Taylor, Mr. Procter, Mr. Richards, Mr. Burslem, William Sharman, Rob. Rhodes, Samuel Bell, and Godfrey Stubings or any five or more of them to make such agreement as they shall think proper with Charles Cartwright for the completing of such work and after such form and method as they shall agree of; And that their act and proceedings be ratified by the Corporation." "June 14th, 1722. Ordered that the articles with the workmen for building the School be sealed with the Common Seal."

## THE REV. RICHARD BOOKER.

On Sept. 27, 1729, Mr. Richard Booker had a lease of a barn in the Lower-street for 21 years and for this privilege he paid a fine of £10. This barn was again referred to on April 8, 1732. "Agreed that a conveyance of that Barn in the

Lower Street opposite to Mr. Booker's house be made to him in consideration of twenty guineas reserving the old rent of one shilling." On June 13, 1732, it was ordered that the lease and release made from the Corporation to Mr. Booker should be sealed with the common seal.

"13th November, 1739. Ordered and agreed that the Receiver pay Mr. Booker six pounds being half a year's salary which through mistake was omitted to be paid when John Ridgway was Receiver." This does not refer to the whole of the Schoolmaster's salary, but to the £12 due from the gifts of John Cotton, John Cowell, and the Rev. Edward Orme.

## GRAMMAR SCHOOL APPOINTMENTS.

In 1753 there is an instructive entry in the "Records":—"3rd May 1753. Whereas by indentures bearing date the sixteenth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and ninety two between the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme of the one part and William Cotton of Bellaport Esq. of the other part, In consideration of £100 then given by the said William Cotton to the Grammar School within the said Borough, The Corporation thereby agreed that the said William Cotton should have the then four first and next donations collations presentations and nominations of a schoolmaster to the said School, And that after the said William Cotton and his heirs should have presented the four first and then next turns, That then for ever after the Corporation and their successors should present a Schoolmaster in the first and next turn that should then after happen, And the said William Cotton the then second and third turns after, And the said Corporation to have every first and the said William Cotton every second and third turn, And so to continue for ever as by the said in part recited Deed may appear, And whereas pursuant to such agreement the said William Cotton and his heirs presented the Revd. Mr. Samuel Townsend for the first Schoolmaster, the Revd. Mr. Edward Jackson for the second, the Revd. Mr. Richard Booker for the third, And the present Revd. Mr. John Lovatt for the fourth, It is therefore hereby ordered and agreed that this entry be made to preserve the next turn to the Corporation."

This extract from the "Records" contains the only notice of the Rev. Samuel Townsend as a master of the Grammar School, and as he was teaching before the Rev. Edward Jackson, his name no doubt supplies the connecting schoolmaster between William Cole and Richard Orme. According to an entry in the "Records" in 1622, the Cotton family were to elect the next three schoolmasters, as the town had already elected three since John Cotton's endowment of 1609.

The borough schoolmaster in 1609 was William Cole, and with the approval of Sir Rowland Cotton he continued in office. Richard Orme was appointed in 1621 by the Corporation, and he had to get Sir Rowland's approval. But on his death in 1654 the Corporation recommended his son the Rev. Edward Orme because his father had expressed the desire that his son should succeed him. On his resignation in 1668 the Corporation elected John Smith, and in 1673 they nominated the Rev. Edward Jackson, and yet in the extract above quoted the latter is put down as the nominee of the Cotton family. Also, Mr. Potts was appointed by Mr. Cotton.

## THE REV. JOHN LOVATT.

One of the following entries from the Parish Church registers seems to indicate that the Rev. John Lovatt was the schoolmaster at least as early as 1748. "Margaret daughter of Mr. John Lovat Schoolmaster baptized July 8th 1748." "Revd. Mr. Booker Schoolmaster buried July 20th 1751." "Theophila daughter of the Revd. Mr. Lovat Schoolmaster baptized February 17th 1755."

On July 31, 1756, it was ordered "that for the future there be nothing paid by the Corporation at the account day or the sealing day, and that the account day for the future be held some time in the month of May, And that the payment of twelve pounds a year to the schoolmaster be withdrawn, And that for the future the Corporation pay only seven pounds a year as they look upon it they are not liable to pay that sum to the Schoolmaster."

It would appear that the Corporation were trying to get out of paying the £5 interest due from Cowell's endowment of £100, which had been invested in lands purchased from Robert Shaw. In 1764 the lease would expire and the

Corporation could then sell the land (as they did) at a handsome profit.

In that very year there occurs this entry :— "9th June 1764. Ordered that the free school be advertised for a master and that none will be accepted without a good character and a bond of resignation be given to the Corporation in case of negligence or misbehaviour." The Rev. John Lovatt resigned and became vicar of Sandon and perpetual curate of Barlaston, in the county of Stafford.

## THE REV. JOHN BRECK.

On July 7, 1764, it is recorded :—"Whereas the Revd. Mr. John Lovatt has now resigned his place of schoolmaster of the Free Grammar School of the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme aforesaid and thereupon the Corporation have this day unanimously elected and chosen the Revd. Mr. John Breck to succeed the said Mr. John Lovatt as Master of the said School and that a nomination under the Corporation seal be given to the said Mr. Breck to procure the Bishop's Licence, and that a certificate be given to William Cotton Esq. under the said Corporation Seal upon the Coropration electing the said Mr. Breck as being their turn or right of nominating a master, And the two next turns belong to Mr. Cotton and his heirs."

Although in 1756 the Corporation tried to repudiate part of the annual sum of £12 which they had to pay to the Schoolmaster, yet in 1771 there is an entry which shows that the proper sum was paid. "1st January, 1771. Ordered that the sum of forty-eight pounds due to the Reverend Mr. Breck Schoolmaster for four years' rent charge of twelve pounds which was due at Michaelmas last be paid by Mr. Mayor."

## LETTER TO THE REV. ROWLAND COTTON.

The Rev. John Breck died in 1789, as appears by this entry in the "Records" :— "23rd December 1789. At this meeting the Corporation took into consideration the appointment of a master to the Grammar School which by the death of Mr. Breck the late master has now been vacant for more than six months, and it appearing that the right of nomination for this turn is in the heir of the Cotton family, It is therefore ordered that the Town Clerk do write a letter to the Rev. Rowland Cotton of Etwall requesting to know

whether that family intends to take any steps to nominate on the present occasion and to signify if this is not soon done the Corporation will proceed to election themselves which in case of neglect for six months together they think they have a right to do. At this meeting a letter to Mr. Cotton was produced and read and approved of."

CHAPTER VII.

# THE REV. JOHN BLUNT AND THE REV. JOHN ANDERTON.

In the "Records" of the Corporation there is no mention of the appointment of a successor to the Rev. John Breck, head-master of the Grammar School, who died in 1789. The late Mr. Arthur Leech, of Newcastle, published a long newspaper article on "The Old Grammar School of Newcastle-under-Lyme," but, unfortunately, it is not altogether reliable, especially in regard to the early masters. He refers to William Cole as probably the first head-master and the next on his list is Mr. Richard Booker.

## THE REV. JOHN BRECK'S SUCCESSOR.

After the Rev. John Breck he mentions the Rev. James Tomlinson, LL.D., and then the Rev. John "Bland" in 1791. But, as far as I have been able to discover, there is no evidence for saying that the Rev. James Tomlinson was ever head-master of the Grammar School. Most likely the Rev. John Blunt [not Bland] succeeded the Rev. John Breck in 1791; and there is no entry of the appointment in the "Records," because he would most likely be appointed by the Rev. Rowland Cotton, of Etwall.

## LAND BEHIND THE SCHOOL.

At the end of the eighteenth century and at the beginning of the nineteenth there are three entries relating to a small piece of ground which was behind the school.

"1st March, 1799.—Ordered that the small garden lying behind the school and adjoining the churchyard be given by this Corporation to the Church for burial ground."

"29th May, 1800.—Ordered that the common seal of this Corporation be affixed to a conveyance of the piece of land behind the school adjoining the churchyard, containing . . . . yards, and agreed at a Common Hall held in and for the said

borough the first day of March last, to be given by the Corporation to the church for burial ground.''

"That such land be conveyed to the Reverend John Fernyhough, the Reverend John Fenton, and the Reverend John Blunt, and also to James Gardner, the churchwarden, upon the trusts expressed in the Indentures of Lease and Release produced.''

The Rev. John Blunt's name occurs again in 1804. "2nd October, 1804.—That the thanks of this Corporation be given to the Reverend Mr. John Blunt for his attendance and services this day on presenting the Colours by the Corporation."

## JOSIAH WEDGWOOD'S SCHOOLMASTER.

It may be well to point out here that this Rev. John Blunt was not the schoolmaster who taught Josiah Wedgwood, the great potter. The latter was born in 1730 and the Rev. John Blunt, headmaster of Newcastle Grammar School, was not appointed until some sixty years later. But Josiah Wedgwood was taught by a Newcastle schoolmaster named Blunt. Miss Eliza Meteyard, in her "Life of Josiah Wedgwood,'' thus writes of his school days:—"The Free School of Burslem was not erected till 1749, but the little town had its dame school. Here the potter's children were sent, more to be out of the way of mischief than for the learning to be obtained there. Josiah accompanied his brothers and sisters; and, later, when he was about seven years old and could walk the distance, the little group, of which he was the youngest, went daily across the pleasant fields of Wolstanton to Newcastle to a school kept by a man of superior education named John or Thomas Blunt, who occupied a large and very old half-timbered house in the market-place. Of this, a part of the ground, as also the first floors, were used as schoolrooms the school being a mixed one. The girls were taught knitting and sewing by Mrs. Blunt, and reading, writing, and arithmetic by her husband. At this period the worthy schoolmaster must have been a man past middle life. His attainments were above the average of men in his position, for, besides some classical knowledge, he was acquainted with mathematics; he studied and made experiments in chemistry, taught writing and arithmetic in an admirable manner, was a strict disciplinarian, tall in appearance, ascetic

in countenance, and in demeanour reverend and grave. It was said that his family had been Puritans, and, enrolled amongst Cromwell's Ironsides, had done good service to the State in the Civil Wars. From this source Blunt probably derived his religious, grave, and meditative character.''

In a footnote, Miss Meteyard adds:—'' A grandson of this John or Thomas Blunt taught in after years a younger branch of the Wedgwoods of Maer. Another grandson settled in Shrewsbury as a wholesale and retail chemist and druggist. Here he passed a long life, being highly respected for his skill in business, his benevolence, and estimable character. The writer well remembers him as a man of superior and venerable aspect, who always dressed in a quaint suit of black, knee-breeches and gaiters, whilst his thin grey hair was drawn together in a queue behind. He had a keen memory of Mr. Wedgwood, and held his character in high veneration.''

## THE RESIGNATION OF THE REV. JOHN BLUNT.

In 1816 the Rev. John Blunt gave notice to the Corporation that he desired to resign on March 25, 1817. '' 1st October, 1816.—At this assembly a notice of resignation of the office of master of the Free Grammar School of this Borough was received from the Rev. John Blunt, the present master, to the effect following, viz.:—' To the Worshipful the Mayor and the other Members of the Corporation of the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme.

' Gentlemen,—I take the opportunity of your annual meeting for the election of a chief magistrate to notify you my intention of resigning at Lady-day the office of Master of the Free Grammar School. Upon such an occasion (believe me, Gentlemen, when I say that I feel it to be a serious one), I cannot but return you my thanks for the liberal and uninterrupted confidence with which you have treated me during a period of more than five-and-twenty years; and I assure you that I shall give up with much concern a connection to which I was originally indebted, for being placed and under the Notice of that Patronage which, by its gratuitous bounty, has enabled me to pass, whatever of life may be yet vouchsafed me, in a manner more suitable to the duties

and the powers of declining age, and permit me, Gentlemen, in conclusion, to offer you my cordial wishes for the prosperity of your ancient Borough, as well as for the health and happiness of every individual of its Corporate Body.

'I am, Gentlemen,
'Your faithful and very humble Servant,
'JOHN BLUNT.'

"Resolved unanimously:—That a communication be made by the Town Clerk to Mr. Blunt expressive of the serious regret which is felt by the members of this Assembly, upon his resignation of that important office, filled by him for upwards of twenty-five years with unexampled ability and advantage to the Borough; and that the cordial thanks of this Assembly be offered to Mr. Blunt for his long and meritorious services, accompanied by the sincerest wishes for his future health and prosperity." "Ordered that the election and appointment of a master to the Free Grammar School of this Borough as a successor to the Reverend John Blunt be held on the 22nd day of October instant."

This letter conclusively proves that the Rev. John Blunt could not have been appointed later than 1791, and therefore he was the direct successor of the Rev. John Breck. According to Mr. Leech, he resigned to become Vicar of Lilleshall, in the county of Salop.

## THE REV. JOHN ANDERTON.

The next entry in the "Records" about the Grammar School is as follows:—"22nd October, 1816.—At this Assembly the Reverend John Anderton, Master of Arts and Commoner of Wadham College, Oxford, was unanimously elected to the office of Master of the Free Grammar School of this Borough, which will become vacant at Lady-day next by the resignation of the Reverend John Blunt, And it was ordered that the usual grant and licence be given to the said John Anderton under the seal of this Corporation on condition that he shall reside in this Town and enter into a bond to resign the Mastership of such School if he shall think proper to reside elsewhere."

"Ordered that the Revenues of the said Free Grammar School from and after Lady-day next shall be regularly received by the Treasurer of the Corporation, who shall pay the net amount

of such revenue to the Schoolmaster half-yearly at Michaelmas and Lady-day, after making such deductions as may from time to time be requisite for the necessary repairs of the said school."

"9th May, 1818.—Resolved that the estate of Knutton belonging to the Grammar School be let to Mr. John Robison for the term of seven years from Lady-day last, at the rent agreed upon between Mr. Robison and Mr. Anderton, if Mr. Anderton certifies his wish in writing that the lease should be granted."

## THE LAST GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

In 1818 there occur entries in the "Records" which refer to the transference of the Grammar School from the centre of the town to the Common Field known as "The Marsh."

"9th November, 1818.—Upon the motion of Mr. Robert Fenton, it was ordered that the sum of sixty guineas be given by the Corporation towards building the proposed new Grammar School on The Marsh."

The situation of the old school in the lower part of Church-street was found most inconvenient, because, being below the level of the churchyard, it became very damp. Accordingly, the Corporation effected an exchange, and the Grammar School was built at the corner of Hanover-street and School-street.

This Grammar School is now no longer in existence, having been demolished about twenty years ago to make room for a row of red-brick houses. Besides Mr. Arthur Leech's description of this school, another is recorded in the pages of "The Fire-Fly" [the High School Magazine], by Mr. Godfrey Wedgwood, June 24, 1884.

## DESCRIPTIONS OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

I quote from the latter's account:—"The Grammar School was held in the small detached oblong building at the back of Mr. Farr's, the coachbuilder in Brunswick-street. The style of architecture was of the worst pretentions, and riggardly, aping the character of an Oxford college, but done cheaply in bricks and yellow wash. The property is now sold, and the building will in all probability be pulled down. . . . . The interior consisted of one hall for all the classes

and a small private room at one end for the Head-master. In front of this private room was a high desk, looking to my childish eyes just like a large pulpit. . . . . The school was small, ill-provided as to rooms, with no accommodation for separate teaching, old-fashioned in its methods of teaching, short of playground, and wanting that *esprit de corps* which is the main power for good in our public schools nowadays.''

This is Mr. Leech's description :—'' This singular-looking edifice was originally erected in sham Tudor style, and is oblong in form, with corner castellated turrets. The uniformity of the design is broken at the southern end by what was apparently a later addition to the main building (being, in point of fact, a kind of '' study '' for the use of the Head-master), and looking very much like an enlarged sentry-box. A blank lancet arch occupies the centre of the northern wall, and the schoolroom was lit by lateral windows, which are externally surmounted by blank second-story windows of hideous shape. The outer walls were originally stuccoed, so as distantly to resemble stone ; but much of the stucco has fallen off, and reveals the nakedness of rough brickwork underneath.'' The only vestiges of the Grammar School still in existence are the big stone posts in Hanover-street, which stood on each side of the entrance-gate to the playground.

CHAPTER VIII.

# THE LAST DAYS OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

The most important entry in the "Borough Records" relating to the building of the Grammar School on the Common Field known as "The Marsh" is as follows :—"31st January, 1817. Whereas the Free Grammar School of this borough, which is now vested in the Corporation as trustees, is very incommodiously situated, and it is desirable that the site thereof should be appropriated to the enlargement of the churchyard, it is therefore ordered that an exchange of lands shall be made between the Corporation and the trustees of Newcastle Marsh whereby the Corporation shall grant in perpetuity to the trustees of the Marsh five hundred and fifty square yards of land in the Stubbs Field (which the Corporation are to receive as part of their allotment upon the inclosure of the Town Fields of this borough) in lieu of and exchange for five hundred and fifty square yards of land now marked out on the Marsh, to which last-mentioned place it is intended to remove the school. And it is further ordered in consideration of the land so to be received in exchange by the Corporation for the site of the new school being of much greater value than the said land in the Stubbs Field that the site of the present school and the land adjoining thereto, containing together one hundred and sixty-five square yards of land, shall, after the removal of the buildings and materials thereon, be sold and conveyed by the Corporation to the parish of Newcastle for the purpose of enlarging the churchyard, and that only the sum of thirteen pounds fifteen shillings, being much less than its real value, be charged to the parish as the purchase money thereof.

"Ordered that the common seal of this borough be affixed to the certificate now produced empowering the Commissioner appointed by the Act of Parliament for inclosing the Town Fields to carry the said intended exchange into full effect."

## THE FARM AT KNUTTON.

Several of the later entries in the "Records" refer to the farm at Knutton purchased in 1609 with John Cotton's gift of £100. "21 January, 1826. Ordered that the farm at Knutton belonging to the Corporation as trustees of the Grammar School, and now in the occupation of Mr. John Robison (whose tenancy expires at Lady-day next), be let to Mr. George Hall from that time for fourteen years at the rent of seventy-three pounds and ten shillings per year under the terms and conditions expressed in the valuation and specification of particulars made out by Mr. Moses Booth. And that a lease be prepared as soon as it shall be finally arranged whether the exchange contemplated with Walter Sneyd, Esquire, is to be carried into effect or not, Mr. Hall undertaking to repair the buildings thoroughly and to keep the same in such thorough repair during the term on being allowed twenty pounds towards the same out of the first year's rent."

The exchange of land with Walter Sneyd, Esq., was in connection with the railway, and was carried out shortly after this date.

About three months later the Corporation proposed to alter the lease with Mr. George Hall. They wanted him to build a new house at a cost of £150, and they did not want to allow him £20 out of the first year's rent. Also, he was to undertake all repairs during his lease. In return, the lease was to be extended from fourteen years to twenty-one, and during the first eight years £10 per annum was to be allowed him to repay part of his expenses. But the first agreement was passed. "May 22nd, 1827. Ordered that the order made at an assembly held on the sixth day of April, 1826, respecting the alterations then intended to be made in the terms for a lease of the Grammar School Farm at Knutton be, and the same is hereby, repealed, and that Mr. George Hall's lease be prepared according to the terms and conditions entered into at an assembly held on the twenty-first day of January, 1826." Then immediately afterwards is entered the following:—"Ordered that a sum of sixty guineas per annum clear of deductions be paid to the Master of the Free Grammar School during the term of Mr. Hall's lease in lieu of the Rent of the Farm." On September 26, 1827, the Mayor was authorized to pay:

"Mr. Kirkham, for timber for repairs of buildings at the Grammar School Farm, £7 9s. 8d.

Moses Booth, Surveyor, for business done about the Grammar School Farm, £2 12s. 6d.

Reverend John Anderton, to reimburse him for land tax and chief rent for the Grammar School Farm, £2 8s. 0d."

It was not until June, 1829, that the lease between the Corporation of Newcastle and Mr. George Hall was legally sealed.

## SURPLUS FUNDS OF THE SCHOOL.

In 1832 the Grammar School itself required repairing. "2nd October, 1832. Ordered that the Grammar School of this Town be repaired out of such fund as may now remain in the hands of the Corporation out of the surplus rents of the Knutton Farm, such repairs to be effected under the superintendence of Mr. Wood, Mr. Robert Hall, Mr. Hill, Mr. Clews, and Mr. Gardner, who are desired to ascertain the state of the Fund."

It must be remembered that Mr. George Hall paid a rent of £73 10s. for the Knutton Farm, of which the Rev. John Anderton, Head-master of the Grammar School, received £63. In April, 1833, the Mayor was authorized to pay out of the surplus funds arising from the excess of the Knutton Farm rent over the annual payment to the Master the following bills incurred in repairing the School:

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| "William Kettle, Joiner.... | 7 | 16 | 0 |
| John Thursfield, Bricklayer | 3 | 7 | 7 |
| Roger Simpson, Painter .. | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| William Woodward, Glazier | 4 | 5 | 0 |
| | £16 | 13 | 7." |

## THE REV. F. F. CLARK.

At Christmas, 1833, the Rev. John Anderton resigned, and he was succeeded by the Rev. Francis Foreman Clerk. Both of these gentlemen are mentioned in the following extract:—"1st July, 1834. It appearing that the Surplus Fund in the hands of the Corporation applicable to purposes for the Grammar School of this Town (and arising from the excess of the rent received for the Farm at Knutton over and beyond the annual sum of £63 paid to the late Master and the other payments made by the Corporation for repairs and outgoings) amounts to the sum of £41 13s. 3d.

Ordered that the sum of £21 13s. 3d., part of the said sum, be paid to the late Master, the Rev. John Anderton, for the purpose of compensating him in part for the repairs (amounting to more than £40 4s. 3d.) which he has paid out of his own pocket since the commencement of the contract with him at Lady-day, 1827 ; and that the sum of £20, residue of the said surplus of £41 13s. 3d., be paid to the Rev. Francis Foreman Clark, the present Master, to compensate him for the expenditure in repairs and refittings at the School which he made at entering upon the same at Christmas last. And that such respective payments be allowed in the Bankers' Accounts on cheques signed by the Mayor."

## THE REV. WILLIAM STONE.

I am not quite sure when the Rev. F. F. Clark ceased to be the Head-master of the Grammar School. He had to resign because of ill-health, and his doctor recommended him to go abroad. From the " Records " it can be ascertained that he received the payments due from the Corporation as late as July, 1836. The school had been shut up for some time before the Rev. William Stone was appointed at Michaelmas, 1841. The only entries in the " Records " about the Grammar School after the year 1834 are in connection with the payments due to the Master under the Decree in Chancery of 1740. For instance, the first mention of the Rev. William Stone is as follows :— " 21st October, 1842. To be paid—Rev. William Stone, Master of the Free Grammar School, a year's payment due Michaelmas, 1842. . . £12." Before he became Headmaster he lived at Whitmore, and just previous to his appointment he published a poem in six books, called " The Course of Truth ; or, The Church of the Redeemed." It is written in blank verse. The late Mr. Godfrey Wedgwood, of Etruria, wrote an account of the school during this master's tenure of office. It was published in the " Fire-fly," the " High School Magazine," and through Mr. F. E. Kitchener's courtesy I make the following extracts.

## THE SCHOOL IN 1842.

" I was 9½ years old when in October, 1842, I was sent to the Grammar School at Newcastle, as a day boarder. I lived at that time at Etruria Hall, a mile and a half from the school, to and from which I walked. (The North Stafford Railway was then

not made, our nearest railway station being Whit more, on the London and North-Western). At that time there were but one or two houses on Basford Bank, until you came to the New Church Vicarage, where Mr. Broad lived, just above the present railway cutting.

"I fell in usually with certain other boys from Etruria going to Orme's School, and found myself involved in their enterprises. Thus it happened that King-street was impassable for me when not in their company, because there was a feud between a school that existed where the back of the Congregational Church now is and the Orme School boys, with whom I had cast in my lot.

"I was introduced at once on arrival to the pleasures of Valpy's Delectus and the Eton Latin Grammar. The first was intelligible, I saw the drift of it. The second was a complete mystery to me. In the course of twelve months I learnt all of it, except prosody, by heart, with just as much benefit as a decently clever parrot would have got from it.

"The only other class book I remember was Goldsmith's History of England, dry but intelligible. Writing, arithmetic, geography, and learning by heart, completed my course of studies. The upper class may have learnt French. I doubt it, at least I do not remember any French master attending.

"At the back of Mr. Stone's house, in the Marsh Parade, there was a yard or garden, and here in the dinner hour the boarders and day boarders had such games as the space and their number would allow of.

"In those days the year was divided into two halves, not three terms as now. A month at Christmas and six or seven weeks in the summer were all our holidays. If there was any break at Easter it was only for a day or two.

## OAK DAY.

"We kept one festival then, which now is 'better honoured in the omission than in the observance:' that was King Charles's Oak Day, on the 29th of May. There was a grand decoration of the old schoolroom with garlands of oak and flowers. And there was a whole holiday, in which we brought our friends and relations to see our decorative work. But to what end, other than obtaining a whole holiday, I do not remember."

The last of this long and honourable line of headmasters was the Rev. John Samuel Broad, who was appointed at Michaelmas, 1848. The Rev. W. Stone received the payments due to the Master of the Grammar School up to Michaelmas, 1848, and a year later they were paid to the Rev. J. S. Broad, who was the Vicar of St. George's Church at Newcastle.

CHAPTER IX.

# THE LAST DAYS OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

In the earliest burial register of St. George's, it is written that the church was consecrated Sept. 16, 1828, and opened for Divine service on Oct. 12.

Presumably the Rev. John S. Broad became the curate there in 1840, as his name is first mentioned on Aug. 23 of that year. Until 1844 the living was a curacy in the patronage of the Rector of Newcastle. In that year the district was formed into a new ecclesiastical parish and made a vicarage, still in the patronage of the Rector. The Rev. John S. Broad then became the first Vicar and retained the ministry of St. George's until 1875. He was better known as a public man than as a schoolmaster. Mr. Arthur Leech says of him:—"He was an old 'Church and State' clergyman, and, perhaps, never appeared to greater advantage than in the Borough Guildhall at Mayoral banquets. Shortly before Mr. Broad's retirement from the borough, he was too ill to attend the usual annual banquet. In lieu of his welcome presence and polished speech, he forwarded a poetic lucubration, being a kind of rhyming apology for his unwonted absence at the festive board, which was read by the Mayor from the chair, amidst sympathetic applause."

At the amalgamation of all the educational charities of the town by the Charity Commissioners' Scheme of 1872 he was pensioned off and received £50 per annum until he died on Dec. 8, 1887. After leaving Newcastle in 1875 he became vicar of Pentney in Norfolk. Some time after the Municipal Corporations Act was passed in 1835, the Grammar School and its endowments became vested in certain Borough Charitable Trustees, and that accounts for the lack of entries relating thereto in the "Records" after that date. Unfortunately, when the old Grammar School was shut up, many of the papers and documents relating to its history were utilized for a bonfire by roughs who broke into the place,

## THE SIX TRUSTEES.

From documents now in the possession of the Clerk to the Governors of the Endowed Schools, I find that in 1854 there were six trustees of the Grammar School—Thomas Ward, solicitor; Thos. Harding, solicitor; Thomas Turner, druggist; James Astley Hall, hat manufacturer; Samuel Mayer, currier; and Thomas Highfield, grocer. Besides certain fees which were paid for some of the scholars, the following was the income :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1.—Farm and cottage at Knutton, occupied by Thomas Leech, at the annual rent of | 73 | 10 | 0 |
| 2.—Rent-charge on houses in Penkhull-street, Newcastle, belonging to the representatives of Thomas Holland, deceased, and paid on account of John Lowe's gift | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| 3.—Rent-charge on premises in the Old Jewry, London, belonging to Coster, and paid on account of Richard Cleyton's gift | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| 4.—The Corporation of Newcastle in respect of the gifts of John Cowell, William Cotton, and the Rev. Edward Orme | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| 5.—William Beard's gift | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Total | £98 | 10 | 0 |

In 1862 the sum of £37 15s. 2d. was deposited in the names of Thomas Turner and Thomas Harding, in the National Provincial Bank at Newcastle, which was the balance of £50 purchase money for 22 perches of land taken for the purposes of "The Silverdale and Newcastle Railway Act, 1860." The sum of £12 4s. 10d. was deducted because it had been expended in repairs and alterations occasioned by the sale.

In 1865 Samuel Mayer was no longer a trustee: in 1868 the trustees were reduced to four when James Astley Hall ceased to act, and in 1870 Thomas Highfield's name was omitted. In 1871 for way-leave granted to Mr. Gordon over the farm land at Knutton the sum of £50 was deposited at interest in the bank. And in the last year of the school's existence Thomas Turner ceased to act as trustee. As will be shown later, the trustees never met, there was no attempt at improving the school in any way, and the income was exactly the same in 1872 as it had been 20 years before.

## SCHOOL FEES.

Mr. George Griffith in 1860, writing on "The Free Schools and Endowments of Staffordshire," stated that no meeting of the trustees had taken place since Mr. Broad's appointment in 1848. He also states:—"All the sons of freemen are admitted on application being made to him [*i.e.*, the Rev. J. S. Broad], and receive a classical education without any payment whatever. It does not appear to have been known that, in respect of Cowell's gift, the children of the inhabitants of Knutton and Chesterton are also entitled to the freedom of the school. The boys who learn writing and accounts pay for such instruction according to what the Master pleases to charge. The payment on this account is now fixed at £4 4s. a-year. The number of free boys varies from 20 upwards. They learn writing and accounts as well as classics; and the Master had last year altogether 50 scholars, including boarders, who were not entitled to their freedom. They are all taught together, and in the same manner."

From "The Report of the Commissioners for Inquiring Concerning Charities" in 1825, I find that there were 73 boys in the school—namely, 12 free boys and 40 day scholars and 21 boarders, who were not entitled to their freedom. The day scholars paid six guineas for classical instruction and two guineas for writing and accounts. If any of the free boys wished to be taught writing and accounts, they had to pay, as only their *classical* education was free.

In the *Staffordshire Advertiser*, Sept. 11, 1869, Mr. George Griffith gave some further interesting particulars about the Grammar School at Newcastle. There were 53 day scholars and 12 boarders; the latter had a separate playground at the Head-master's house. The day scholars, who were not free, paid £18 5s. per annum, perhaps owing to the trustees never having met since they were appointed in the year 1841. Four guineas per annum was still the charge for teaching English subjects. As the Head-master, the Rev. J. S. Broad, was the vicar of St. George's Church he was often away in the afternoon. The two other masters in 1868 were Mr. French and Mr. Holden.

## THE FREE SCHOLARS.

I believe that the smallest number of free scholars who ever attended the Grammar School

was two in 1817, when the Rev. John Anderton became the head-master. Ever since the agreement made by the Corporation of Newcastle with William Cotton in 1692, the number of free scholars had declined. In the first instance, 30 scholars were taught gratis, but in the latter part of the eighteenth century the free scholars averaged about 10 per annum.

## LISTS OF OLD BOYS.

In 1885 the old school on the Marsh was disposed of by the Governors of the Endowed Schools, and its site is now occupied by private tenements. In December, 1886, there appeared in "The Fire-Fly," the High School magazine, an interesting list of names of old boys contributed by the Rev. J. S. Broad. The following is the list:—"James Hall, Henry Goodall, Arthur Leech, Charles Herbert Broad (son of the Headmaster, died 1886, Major 5th Fusiliers), Thomas Brittain, Richard Adams, late Captain North Staffordshire Militia; O. William Steele, vicar of Wolstanton; William Heath, son of R. Heath, of Biddulph Grange, went to Rugby afterwards; Robert Holdgate, Robert Slaney, Samuel Edwards, Samuel Bate, William Cartwright, deputy town clerk and deputy clerk to the Governors; John Ashley Broad, incumbent of St. Anne's, Dunbar; Richard B. Mellard, Mayor of Newcastle, 1887; Archibald F. Coghill, William H. Hallam, medical officer to the borough; Frederick Dutton, Thomas Wilson De Vine, vicar of Oulton, Stone."

In the same magazine in January, 1887, amongst other matters relating to the Grammar School. Mr. Robert Fenton contributed a further list of old boys:—"Thomas Fenton, solicitor, Mayor of Newcastle 1804, town clerk of Newcastle 1826, 1851, and steward of the Manor of Newcastle; Robert Fenton, solicitor, Mayor of Newcastle 1844–5, was educated under Mr. Anderton; the Rev. Henry Bostock (brother of John Bostock), head-master of Warrington Grammar School, and formerly head-master of Aylesbury School, educated under Mr. Anderton; John Bostock, native of Newcastle, the celebrated painter, was educated under Mr. Anderton; William Mellard, sen., alderman, Mayor of Newcastle in 1856 and 1877, educated under Mr. Clarke; Edward Fenton, solicitor, member of the School Board, educated under Mr. Clarke,"

## HARRISON AND FENTON.

In all probability, Thomas Harrison, one of Cromwell's eleven Major-Generals, and one of the men who sat in judgment on Charles I., was educated at the old Free School. He was born in 1616, and therefore Richard Orme, who was head-master of the school built in St. Giles's churchyard from 1621 to 1654, would be his teacher.

Elijah Fenton, the poet, whose life has been written by Dr. Johnson, and who collaborated with Pope, was a scholar at Newcastle Grammar School, most likely under Mr. Ward.

It is stated by his biographer in 1894 :— "There still exists near the Clayton Field—a short distance from the town of Newcastle-under-Lyme—an old oak tree, into which tradition says he was wont to climb, and sit in its branches to study his lessons, whilst the rest of his school-fellows were at play."

## JOHN FORD.

According to Mr. William Henry Dutton, first chairman of the Governors of the Endowed Schools, Mr. John Ford, leading counsel for Lord Lovat in the high treason trial in 1746, began his education at the Grammar School. A marble tablet to his memory was on the walls of St. Giles's Church prior to 1873 ; and last year, after nearly forty years' relegation to a dark brick chamber in the churchyard, it was restored to its rightful place within the church.

I close this account of the old Borough School, which later became the Grammar School, by giving a list of head-masters, with their dates, as far as I have been able to ascertain them.

## BOROUGH AND GRAMMAR SCHOOL MASTERS.

William Sabshed, 1565–1572 [1587 ?].
Randull Davenport, 1587.
James Palin, 1602.
William Cole, 1609.
The Rev. Samuel Townsend [mentioned in the "Borough Records" in 1753].
Richard Orme, 1621–1654.
The Rev. Edward Orme, 1654–1668.

John Smith, 1668–1673 [the Rev. Thomas Oulton, curate of St. Giles's Church, acted as schoolmaster until John Smith had taken his degree].
The Rev. Edward Jackson, 1673–1682.
Mr. Potts, 1682–[1685 ? ].
The Rev. Paul Wood or Ward, 1692.
The Rev. Richard Booker, 1715–1739 [1748 ? ].
The Rev. John Lovatt, 1748–1764.
The Rev. John Breck, 1764–1789.
The Rev. John Blunt, 1791–1817.
The Rev. John Anderton, 1817–Christmas, 1833.
The Rev. Francis Foreman Clark, January, 1834–1836.
The Rev. William Stone, 1841—1848.
The Rev. John Samuel Broad, 1848–1872.

CHAPTER X.

# THE DAME SCHOOL.

The establishment of a Dame or Infant School in the borough was due to the benefaction of John Cowell, who in the codicil to his will, dated July 9, 1655, left £100 to purchase lands so that the interest arising therefrom should be paid to the Borough Schoolmaster. An account of this bequest has already been given in the history of the Borough Grammar School.

## JOHN COWELL'S WILL.

But the following extracts from the will itself —not the codicil—also concern Newcastle :— "This ninth day of July in the year of our Lord God one thousand six hundred and fifty and five I John Cowal of Knutton in the County of Stafford yeoman, do ordain this my last will and testament . . . . first I give and devise unto Christabell my wife for and during the term of her natural all that my messuage or tenement with the appurtenances situate in Knutton and wherein I now inhabit . . . . Also I give and bequeath unto the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgesses of the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme ten pounds which my will is shall be put forth into the hands of two Tradesmen, yearly, being burgesses of the said borough or otherwise at their discretion, they having care to take security for repayment thereof and keeping the stock on foot, . . . . The overplus and remainder of my will is shall be disposed to such pious and charitable uses as my loving friends Thomas Bagnal of Newcastle-under-Lyme, aforesaid, Alderman, and John Wood of Chesterton, Yeoman, shall think fit, . . . . Also I give to the poor of Newcastle-under-Lyme aforesaid five pounds to be distributed at my decease, Also I do hereby constitute John Beech the elder and my said cousin Thomas Dobson executors of this my last will and testament . . . . In witness whereof . . . . (Signed) John Cowall, in the presence of Ralph Keeling, Isaac Keeling, William Colclough, Thomas Bagnall, Samuel Bagnall."

The codicil, by which the sum of £100 was given to the Borough School, was added on Aug. 15, 1657, and there were four witnesses, of which Thomas Bagnall was one.

I have no doubt the sum of £5 was distributed at John Cowell's funeral, but I have not been able to trace what became of the £10 to be loaned yearly to two burgesses. Most likely the borough officials neglected to call in the capital sum.

## DEED OF CHANCERY, 1670.

It will be seen that there is no definite mention of the foundation of a Dame School, but Thomas Bagnall and John Wood could apply the "overplus and remainder" of Cowell's estate to such pious and charitable uses as they thought fit.

Thomas Bagnall and John Wood had to institute a suit against the executors of Cowell's will, and a decree of the Court of Chancery, dated June 3, 1670, ordered that the sum of £293 15s. should be paid to the plaintiffs, in satisfaction of the residue, but that the sum of £120 thereof was not to be disposed of till the end of seven years, for reasons given in the decree.

## DEED POLL, 1674.

By a deed poll, dated June 29, 1674, which recited the terms of John Cowell's will in regard to the residue of his estate and the order of the Court of Chancery in 1670, and further recited that Thomas Bagnall and John Wood had, according to the directions of the testator, disposed of £23 15s. amongst his poor relations, leaving £270 ; and that they had put forth the whole sum of £270 (although £120 thereof was not to be paid at present) upon mortgage of certain messuages, lands, and hereditaments in Brerehurst, as by indentures, dated Aug. 10 and 11, 1670, would appear :—It is witnessed and declared that Thomas Bagnall and John Wood, in performance of the trust reposed in them, appointed the sum of £270 to the following uses—viz., £140, part thereof, to purchase lands or an annuity of the yearly value of £7, or so much as the same would purchase, for the maintenance of a sufficient preaching minister, at Newchapel, *alias* Thursfield Chapel, in the parish of Wolstanton, in case the money secured by the mortgage should be paid in, and, if not, that the yearly sum of £7 should be paid for the like purpose out of the

profits of the mortgaged lands; and they appointed the sum of £130, residue thereof, to be applied in a purchase of lands or a rent of the yearly value of £6 10s., or so much as the same would purchase; or, if the principal money should not be paid in, £6 10s. yearly of the interest thereof towards the maintaining of a school dame of the borough of Newcastle, to teach and catechise 30 poor children of the poor inhabitants of the borough; and they directed that the £140 should be paid into the hands of John Rowley and others, of Wolstanton, and the £130 into the hands of Thomas Shaw and others, part of the Corporation of the borough of Newcastle; and that the lands or rents purchased with the several sums above-mentioned should be assured to such persons respectively.

## THOMAS BAGNALL'S WILL.

About a year later, Thomas Bagnall made further provision for the endowment of a Dame School. By his will, dated July 17, 1675, and proved in the Manor Court of Newcastle, he bequeathed to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses of Newcastle £50 in trust to purchase lands or a rent-charge of 40s. yearly, to be disposed of to the encouragement of a school dame, inhabiting within the borough, to teach 10 poor children yearly of the inhabitants of the borough; the scholars to be nominated by the Mayor, bailiffs, and capital burgesses; and the residue to be applied in buying catechisms and books for the poor scholars to learn in, and Bibles and Testaments as far as the same would extend.

These two sums of money amounted to £180, but a further sum of £50 was given 29 years later.

## RALPH KEELING'S WILL.

By will dated Aug. 5, 1704, Ralph Keeling, after reciting that Thomas Bagnall had settled a charity of £170(?) for teaching 40 poor children in Newcastle to read and buy them books, the testator gave to his cousin the Rev. Egerton Harding, the minister of Newcastle, and John Fenton, gentleman, £50 to be by them settled and employed towards the increase of the charity and other purposes—viz., 40s. of the income to be paid to the teacher for teaching 10 more children to be added to the 40, and the rest employed in or towards buying the then Church Catechism

and other books for all the children; and he directed that his charity should be managed by the same trustees as had the ordering of Mr. Bagnall's charity—viz., Egerton Harding and John Fenton, the successors of Egerton Harding, ministers there from time to time thereafter, being added to the other trustees, and in equal wordr with them as to both charities; and he peiected that the sum of £50 might be lent to the Corporation of Newcastle upon their common seal, in case they would give the yearly interest of £3 for the same: and he declared his will to be that no child should receive any benefit of the former or this his present charity unless and so long only as he or she should resort to hear prayers and sermon at the church there so often as the same should be there performed according to the liturgy and usage of the Church of England; and in case the former charity or this his charity should be employed in teaching children which should not be instructed in the Catechism of the Church of England, or which did not duly resort to such church, or should resort to any public place of divine worship other than those where the liturgy and rites of the Church of England, as then by law established, should be observed, the income and the proceeds of his gift should from thenceforth be employed for the better maintenance of the minister for the time being officiating in the Church of Newcastle according to the liturgy and rites of the Church of England.

## SCHOOL DAME IN 1694.

The only notice from the "Borough Records" of the Dame School before the date of Ralph Keeling's will—viz., 1704—is this extract:—"6th February, 1694. Agreed that Joseph Lees be made a burgess of this Borough paying five pounds for the same, And for that consideration the petty school is to continue in his wife's care upon her demeaning herself carefully and diligently in the said place, And receive the salary therefore due as formerly she hath."

Then in 1707 occur three consecutive notices. "28th October, 1707. Agreed at this assembly that Jane Fernihaugh, daughter of Simon Fernihaugh, shall be Schoole dame of the English Schoole within this Borough and that John Heylin be continued to be an Assistant to her as he has to her predecessor and have allowed him out of the profits or incomes which belong to the same the sum of two pounds and twelve shillings yearly."

## RALPH KEELING'S GIFT.

"Agreed at this assembly that the Fifty pounds given and bequeathed by the will of Mr. Ralph Keeling of London, grocer, deceased, for certain uses and purposes (to Mr. Egerton Harding and Mr. John Fenton) in his will declared shall be borrowed from the Corporation at the interest of three pounds per annum and that the Bond from the Corporation to the said Mr. Harding and Mr. Fenton now offered for security of the same be sealed with the Common Seal.—Agreed further that the said Fifty pounds be paid to the Receiver and that the same be employed for payment of such debts of the Corporation as are ordered to be paid."

"Agreed that it be referred to Mr. Mayor and Mr. Justice Beard to clothe John Heylin."

Still, in 1707 occurs another reference. "27 November, 1707. Ordered at this assembly that Mr. Mayor be empowered during his continuing in the station of Mayor from time to time and so oft as he shall think fit to inspect the English School within this Borough taught by Jane Fernihaugh and place such children therein or displace them or any of them as he shall see convenient."

"28th October, 1708. Ordered that Mr. John Fenton and Mr. Hatrell, the executors of Mr. Orme's will, be desired by the Corporation to admit John Heylin into their English School to be instructed in writing and arithmetic and to be perfected in reading English that he may be the better able to maintain himself."

## TWO OTHER SCHOOL DAMES.

A new Headmistress was appointed in 1721. "8th August, 1721: Ordered and agreed at this assembly that Jane Fernihough be discharged from being the School Dame of the English Charity School at Michaelmas next and that Anne Edwards do succeed her and that for the future the School Dame be restrained from taking any scholars without the approbation of the Company."

"5th December, 1721. Ordered and agreed at this assembly that Mr. Mayor, the Justices and Aldermen do settle the scholars to be taught in Mr. Bagnall's Charity School and that for the future no child be admitted without the approbation of the Company."

In the year 1725 a list of charities was entered in the "Records." The interest from Cowell and Bagnall's gifts was said to be £8. In regard to Ralph Keeling's gift there is this entry :—"Given by Mr. Ralph Keeling Fifty pounds into the hands of the Corporation for which Three pounds per annum was to be paid to the Minister." It does not appear that this sum of £3 was ever employed to assist the Dame School. It was paid to the minister, as a trustee in the first instance, but it might have been in consequence of a forfeiture on behalf of the charity later on. The Rector still receives this sum.

## THE LAST SCHOOL DAMES.

Two other mistresses of the Dame School are recorded in an entry in 1742. "16th April, 1742. Ordered and agreed that the English School upon the death of Widow Edwards be taught by John Pendleton's wife, he being now in Stafford Goale (*sic*), And that she have only seven pounds paid her by quarterly payments, And that this Corporation provide books for the poorest children."

In a record of annual charges payable by the Corporation in 1825 it is stated :—"Annual rent to Minister of Newcastle for a school there in consideration of £50 given by Ralph Keeling . . £3." In this year, Mrs. Mary Fox was the Schoolmistress. She was about 75 years of age and was really past teaching the children, who numbered about 20. When she died in 1827 no successor was appointed.

## AMALGAMATION OF THE CHARITIES.

When the charities for educational purposes were amalgamated by scheme in 1872, the new Governors called upon the Corporation of Newcastle to pay over arrears due from the gifts of John Cowell and Thomas Bagnall, which amounted to £8 a-year with interest since 1827. The Council resisted the claim on the ground that since 1827 no teaching of children had been conducted for the money which had been vested with the Corporation, who were willing to pay £8 per annum from the date of the scheme. The Charity Commissioners, on being appealed to, suggested that £8 a-year should be paid from 1827, and continue to be paid annually, and that the Governors should forego interest from 1827. This was accordingly done, and still the Corporation pays £8 to the Governors of the Endowed Schools on behalf of two of the charities which founded the Dame School.

CHAPTER XI.

## THOMAS HATRELL'S CHARITY.

One of the mural tablets that used to be on the walls of old St. Giles's Church and that are now awaiting re-erection in the present church has the following inscription :—" Near this place are deposited the remains of Thomas Hatrell, late of this Town, Esq., who departed this life on the 22nd day of March, 1797, aged 75 years. He married Dorothy, second daughter of Thomas Coke, late of Derby, Esq. This monument was erected to the memory of a beloved brother by his affectionate sister, Jane Jervis. His Friends and the Poor will best record his Praise."

### THOMAS HATRELL'S WILL.

Thomas Hatrell, of Newcastle, by will, dated the 20th of May, 1794. directed that his executors —namely, his wife Dorothy Hatrell, William Jervis, Peter Walthall, and Charles Hassells—should, as soon as conveniently might be, out of his personal estate, put out the sum of £2,000 upon some good and sufficient public or private security, the produce thereof to be paid yearly, and distributed for ever in putting out poor children to school, at five of the poorest schools in Newcastle, an equal number at each ; and he directed that his wife should have the nomination both of the schools and children during her life, and at her decease that the same should devolve on his executors or trustees, as the case might be : and whenever his executors should be reduced to the number of two, he directed that they should appoint three trustees to act with them for the purposes aforesaid, and so whenever the said trustees should be reduced to two, that they should appoint three more. In his will, the following persons are mentioned :—His brother-in-law Daniel Parker Coke, his sister-in-law Emma Matilda Heathcote, his sister-in-law Sarah Hatrell (widow of his brother Henry Hatrell), and George Parker, Esq. This will was duly proved on June 22, 1797, in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. The legacy of £2,000 was invested by the Executrix and the three

executors in the purchase of £2,802 1s. 8d. three and a-half per cent. Consolidated Bank Annuities, which, later, were converted into Three and a-quarter per cent. Consolidated Bank Annuities, and the amount of the legacy duty was advanced by Lord St. Vincent. The dividends were received by Mr. Thomas Kinnersely, of Clough Hall, a banker at Newcastle. His executors, Job Meigh and Francis Boydell, on the 12th of April, 1855, made arrangements with the Directors of the National Provincial Bank that they should take over the business of the old bank.

## THE FIVE CHARITY SCHOOLS.

Mrs. Hatrell left Newcastle in the year 1813, and committed the nomination of the five schools and the children to the Rev. Clement Leigh, the then rector of Newcastle, and such sums as were thought necessary for carrying on the charity were paid by Mr. Hassells' order to the Rector every quarter. Mrs. Hatrell, prior to her departure from Newcastle, had established the following method of distribution :—Children were sent by the Rector to five schools in Newcastle, and of these schools, three were kept by schoolmistresses for girls and two by schoolmasters for boys, whose salaries varied according to circumstances.

All the boys were taught reading, and in 1823 fourteen of them—eight at one school and six at the other—learnt accounts and writing, and the girls were taught reading and needlework.

The following payments were made by the Rev. Clement Leigh :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| To Mr. Jackson, schoolmaster, per quarter | 7 | 1 | 0 |
| Addition for firing at the Christmas quarter | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| To Mr. Astbury, per quarter | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| For firing | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| To Mrs. Mellard, per quarter | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| For firing | 0 | 15 | 9 |
| To Mrs. Lovatt, per quarter | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| For firing | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| To Mrs. Moreton, per quarter | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| For firing | 0 | 15 | 0 |

Each child at Christmas also received a present of 1s., and a few of the most deserving at each school had a pair of shoes, three or four being

selected from each school upon the recommendation of the Master or Mistress. At Christmas, 1823, these expenses amounted to £4 19s. A reward of 6d. was also given to each girl who worked a sampler.

## THE NATIONAL SCHOOL.

In the Charity Commissioners' report of 1825, it was stated that though these schools were well conducted, the Rector and many of the principal persons in the neighbourhood thought that it would be a much more beneficial application of this charity if the fund were applied to the maintenance of a National School which was then about to be established and for which a building was in progress capable of containing 600 children. It was also stated that the Trustees and Lord St. Vincent, who inherited a considerable part of the Donor's property, were desirous to join in effecting that measure if possible, and it was in contemplation to apply to the Lord Chancellor by petition for liberty to make such a disposition of the funds. The old National School, built in Bagnall-street, was founded by deed dated Oct. 4, 1825, and it was completed and established in 1826. Mr. Jackson sent in the following protest on Jan. 11, 1825:—"S. Jackson informs Thomas Fenton, Esq., that he shall oppose the petition to the Lord Chancellor respecting Mr. Hatrell's Schools, considering himself to have a life estate in the said charity; he merely states this to prevent his character being marked with duplicity by the Commissioners, the Lord Chancellor, or the Honourable House of Commons. S. J. should have been consulted." The Rector, with the consent of Mrs. Hatrell, provided for the payment of £29 16s. per annum out of the charity funds to the National School. For this grant the managers of the school gratuitously educated 20 boys and 20 girls. Other children who attended the National School paid 2d. each per week.

## NEW TRUSTEES.

After the deaths of Mrs. Hatrell and William Jervis, the surviving executors—namely, Peter Walthall and Charles Hassells—by an indenture dated Nov. 24, 1830, appointed the Rev. Charles Stephen Hassells, the Rev. Clement Leigh, rector of Newcastle-under-Lyme, and the Rev. John Anderton to act as trustees jointly with them, and to administer the invested sum of £2,000.

Charles Hassells and the Rev. John Anderton died, thus leaving three trustees; but two of the remaining trustees died in the month of February, 1853—namely, Peter Walthall and the Rev. Clement Leigh, when the Rev. Charles Stephen Hassells became the sole surviving trustee. Because the number of trustees had become reduced below the number of two, there was no power to appoint new trustees, and to complicate matters still more the Rev. Charles Stephen Hassells left England in March, 1854, for the Gold Coast, with the intention of permanently residing there. He had made no provision for receiving the dividends which accrued to Hatrell's charity.

## THE FIVE SCHOOLS IN 1855.

In 1855 and for many years previously, the annual income of the charity had been applied as follows :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| To the Boys' National School..... | 14 | 18 | 0 |
| To the Girls' National School..... | 14 | 18 | 0 |
| To John Taylor's School..... | 25 | 1 | 0 |
| To Mary Smith's School..... | 13 | 8 | 9 |
| To Anne Moreton's School..... | 12 | 15 | 0 |
| Gifts of 1s. each to 120 children.... | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| | £87 | 0 | 9 |

For these grants, 20 boys and 20 girls were taught gratuitously at the National Schools, 25 boys at John Taylor's School, 21 girls at Mary Smith's School, and 20 girls at Anne Moreton's School. By virtue of the Charitable Trusts Act of 1853, a scheme for regulating Hatrell's charity was enrolled in Chancery, Nov. 27, 1857. One of the clauses provided that the sums paid to the private schools should be continued, but in regard to the National Schools it provided that "The annual sum of £29 16s. hitherto made to the National School of Newcastle shall be continued down to the 25th day of December, 1857." The following clause was :—"Subject to the payments hereinbefore referred to the Income of the Charity shall be applied in establishing and maintaining a school for the gratuitous instruction of the children of the poorest inhabitants in Newcastle-under-Lyme, provided that suitable premises can be procured in Newcastle for the purpose without any costs to or liability to be incurred by

the charity." Although the payments to the National School ceased, no other suitable school was established or maintained.

## JOHN TAYLOR'S SCHOOL.

John Taylor, who was the master of the principal school supported by the charity, taught in premises situated in Brindley-street, Liverpool-road. He taught 28 boys, who paid for their books only, but who did not receive any money or shoes. During the last years when the charity was administered by a separate body of trustees, John Taylor's was the only school supported by Thomas Hatrell's benefaction. In 1856 the trustees of this charity included the then Mayor (William Mellard), the Rector (the Rev. Henry Veale), Dr. Wilson, the Rev. William Chambers, and Messrs. Dickson, Heath, Phillips, Ward, Harding, Brown, Mort, and S. M. Turner.

## THE LAST TRUSTEES.

From 1869 until 1872, when the Educational Charities were amalgamated, the income was rather more than £82 per annum, of which only £25 1s. was paid out to John Taylor. He was pensioned off at the end of 1872 with a grant of £10 per annum, and the sum of money to be handed over to the Governors of the Endowed Schools was £632 10s. 7d. The following were the trustees in 1872 :—The Rev. Henry Veale, the Rev. John Samuel Broad, the Rev. William Chambers (dissenting minister), Thomas Ward (solicitor), John Drewry Mort (newspaper proprietor), Thomas Harding (solicitor), and Thomas Heath (hat manufacturer).

## Chapter XII.

# THE FOUNDATION OF THE ORME SCHOOL.

From the *Staffordshire Advertiser*, dated Feb. 6, 1864, I take the following :—

"ORME'S CHARITY.

"It is pretty well known that the founder of the English School, Newcastle, generally known as 'Orme's Charity' was the Rev. Edward Orme, an inhabitant if not a native of Newcastle who died some 150 years since. The rev. gentleman was buried in St. Giles's Churchyard, and the spot where he was interred is marked by a plain flat stone the surface of which is now wearing fast away. The trustees of the school have very properly decided that there should be a suitable and more lasting record of one to whose benevolence the town is and ever will be greatly indebted. With a proper feeling to perpetuate the memory of this excellent man, the trustees have just erected in the chancel of St. Giles's Church a handsome mural monument of white and black marble (the work of Mr. E. Edwards, of Bagnall-street), and which bears the following inscription :—'In memory of the Rev. Edward Orme, B.A., some time Head-master of the endowed Grammar School of this borough and founder of that excellent institution Orme's Charity School, for the education of poor children of Newcastle in reading, writing, and casting accounts. He died October 2nd, 1704, and lies buried in the churchyard close to the chancel window.'"

## THE REV. EDWARD ORME'S GRAVESTONE.

The gravestone to which reference is made has this inscription on it :—"In memory of Edward Orme, Clerk, who died October 2nd, 1704, the Founder of the English Charity School."

By reference to the accounts, still in existence, of disbursements made by the executors of the Rev. Edward Orme, I find that a sum of 17 shillings was paid for the gravestone and that

THE ORME SCHOOL.

another sum of 6s. 8d. was paid for "breaking the floor of the chancel." Evidently the Rev. Edward Orme was buried in the chancel of the church where often he had preached. When the new church was erected in 1721, the gravestone was placed "in the churchyard close to the chancel window." There it remained until 1873, when on the erection of the present church it was once more disturbed. Unlike many of the gravestones which then disappeared, it is still in the churchyard, lying flat near the south porch. Unfortunately, the inscription on it is not accurate. The Rev. Edward Orme did not die on Oct. 2, 1704. His burial is recorded in the fourth old vellum register of the Parish Church, on page 142:—"Mr. Edward Orme, Curate, buried February 28th, 1705." The year is really given as 1704, because, until 1753, the new year did not begin with Jan. 1, but after the quarter-day in March. Evidently in preparing the inscription for the tablet to be erected in the chancel of St. Giles's Church the trustees of the Orme School in 1864 relied upon the evidence of the gravestone. It would have been better to have turned to the old register, or even a certified copy of the will would have shown up the mistake.

## THE ORME TABLET.

When the church was taken down in 1873, the Orme tablet was not re-erected in the present edifice, but, along with the other mural monuments of the old church, was stored away in a brick chamber built in the north mound. There it remained until 1894, when Mr. Stanier, of Peploe, insisted, in consideration of his restoration of the church tower, that four tablets, of which the Rev. Edward Orme's was one, should be placed on the walls of the tower. Last year, 1912, the Rector, the Rev. J. W. Dunne, caused the monument to be removed to its rightful position on the south wall of the chancel.

## THE REV. EDWARD ORME'S WILL.

The following, with three personal omissions which are of no public importance, is the Rev. Edward Orme's will:—"In the name of God Amen. I, Edward Orme, of Newcastle-under-Lyme, Clerk in Holy Orders in the County of Stafford, being of sound and disposing mind and memory, do make this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following. *Imprimis*

I give and bequeath to my grandchildren namely Elizabeth Hurdman the sum of one hundred pounds to her three sisters four score pounds apiece which I would have paid them six months after my decease, To George Cook of Mothershall and William Cotton of Cotwalton or to the survivor of them or to the executors of the survivors of them to be put out to interest and employed for their benefit and advantage and paid to them respectively with the product thereof when they shall severally attain the age of one and twenty or the day of their marriage which shall first happen, . . . .

GIFT TO THE POOR OF BURSLEM.

"*Item* I give to John Wedgewood, Thomas Cartwright and Ralph Simpson of Burslem and to the survivors and survivor of them and the executors of the survivor of them the sum of £5 to be paid upon the second day of February next after my decease and to be put out to interest and the interest laid out yearly in bread and distributed to the poor of the parish of Burslem in the County of Stafford upon every second day of February for ever. . . . .

GIFT TO NEWCASTLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

"*Item* I give to the Mayor, Bailiffs and Burgesses of Newcastle-under-Lyme aforesaid the sum of forty pounds to be by them put out to interest and the interest paid yearly to the Schoolmaster of the Grammar School of Newcastle aforesaid and to his successors for ever. *Item* I give to Joseph Orme and his heirs for ever the messuage wherein I now live with the appurtenances in Newcastle aforesaid and also the sum of fifty pounds, . . . . *Item* I give to Samuel Orme of Knutton and his heirs for ever all my lands in the Ashfield in Knutton aforesaid being four days' work whether more or less. *Item* I give to Anne Orme widow five pounds, to her daughter Mary five pounds, to her daughter Martha ten pounds, to Elizabeth Leversage widow forty shillings and to her children *videlicet* to Thomas four pounds, to Mary the wife of Richard Lovatt three pounds, to the wife of Timothy Alsop four pounds, to Deborah and Hannah two other daughters of the said Elizabeth Leversage five pounds apiece, to Elizabeth, Mary and Ellen, daughters of Robert Leversage deceased five pounds apiece, to Katherine her sister

two guineas, to the wife of Thomas Lovatt wheelright three pounds, to Jane Davison daughter of Thomas Leversage of Trentham forty shillings, to the three children of John Leversage of Trentham twenty shillings apiece.

## FOUNDATION OF THE ENGLISH SCHOOL.

"I give, devise, and bequeath to my executors and their heirs or to the survivor of them and his heirs or to the heirs of the survivor of them all that messuage with the appurtenances in Newcastle wherein John Lowe doth now inhabit and all lands in the Poolfield in Newcastle aforesaid and all other my lands, tenements and hereditaments not before disposed and the residue of my real and personal estate upon special trust and confidence that they shall employ the rents issues and profits thereof as followeth, that is to say, five pounds per annum thereof by the consent approbation of the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses of Newcastle aforesaid in putting to apprentice poor children inhabiting in Newcastle aforesaid and that they shall employ the residue of the said rents issues and profits for the teaching of so many of the poor children of Newcastle to read. write and cast accounts and buying of them books as the same will extend to and I make John Fenton, Gentleman, son of John Fenton Gentleman deceased and Henry Hatrell executors of this my will desiring them to see it performed in all things. In Witness whereof I have hereto set my hand and seal the three and twentieth day of February anno domini one thousand seven hundred and four and in the third year of the reign of Queen Annc. Signed, sealed and published by the said Testator in the presence of us who attested the same in his presence. EDWARD ORME.

"Witnesses :
"HUMPHREY BURROWS.
"JOHN RILEY.
"NATHAN WILLIAMS."

It must be remembered that in our style of reckoning, the date of the will should be the 23rd of February, 1705.

Particulars of the £40 bequeathed to the Headmaster of the Grammar School have been given previously in the account of the Old Borough School, wherein also events in the life of the Rev. Edward Orme are recorded.

## THE CAUSE OF THIS FOUNDATION.

He was the Borough Schoolmaster, in succession to his father, from 1654 to 1668. Twenty-four years after he had resigned a great change took place in the class of free scholars and in the curriculum of the school. When he had been the head-master the sons of poor inhabitants had been given a free education in English subjects. But by William Cotton's endowment of 1692 the sons of burgesses were to be taught gratis Latin and Greek instead. Most likely to remedy this state of affairs, the Rev. Edward Orme left the bulk of his estate to establish a school where English subjects should again be taught gratis to the poor children of Newcastle.

## A SIMILAR CASE AT HARROW.

When Dr. Vaughan was head-master of Harrow (1844–1859), he remedied a grievance of the old inhabitants of the parish who thought that their sons ought to receive the benefit of the school founded by John Lyon in 1571.

When Dr. Vaughan was appointed there were three sets of people, all more or less at loggerheads—(1) The farmers and tradespeople, who thought they were being deprived of their rights; (2) the temporary residents, who enjoyed the benefits of a free classical education for their sons; and (3) the foreigners—*i.e.*, the people who lived at a distance and paid exceedingly high fees for the privilege of having their sons educated at Harrow School.

The governors would do nothing, so Dr. Vaughan, in 1853, established "an English class" in a ramshackle old barn, which had been previously used as a temporary church, and the masters who taught there were paid from the handsome profits made out of the sons of the foreigners.

In 1863 a Royal Commission on Public Schools ordered the governors to build a new school, and to give £600 per annum for its support. Since then, this school has prospered exceedingly.

In all probability, the first Orme School was founded in a similar way to the "English School" at Harrow, but with this difference: The Orme English School was not in conjunction with the Borough Grammar School, but under separate trustees.

The Rev. Edward Orme had considerable wealth. At his death, there was in his house £179 15s. 9d., and he had out on loan £1,278 15s., and the interest he charged was 5 per cent. per annum.

When he was buried 828 poor people received 2d. each.

The will was proved by Mr. Henry Hatrell alone, who took the whole of the personal estate into his hands and the management of the real estate.

## THE MEETING HOUSE AS A SCHOOL.

Within a few months of the death of the Rev. Edward Orme, the English School was established in the Presbyterian Meeting House near to the tower of St. Giles's Church. An arrangement was made with the trustees of the Meeting House of which Henry Hatrell was one, whereby school fittings were introduced for the use of the English scholars during the week. This outlay cost the Orme Trustees £32 6s. 11d. Henry Hatrell was an attorney, a dissenter, a trustee of the Meeting House, one of the two trustees of Orme's Charity, and he was Mayor of the Borough for three years in succession—viz., 1707, 1708, and 1709.

CHAPTER XIII.

## THE FIRST ORME SCHOOL.

In 1687 the Rev. Edward Orme was *locum tenens* for Mr. Sherratt, who was the minister of St. Giles's Church, and the record of his burial entry styles him "curate." It must be remembered that St. Giles's Church until the year 1807 was a chapel-of-ease in the parish of Stoke. When the Rev. Edward Orme died (February, 1705). the Rev. Egerton Harding was the minister at St, Giles's under the Rector of Stoke, and most likely the founder of the Orme Chaity wars assisting in the ministrations of what is now the Parish Church of Newcastle. The following extract from the "Borough Records" supports that view:—"17th May, 1705. Whereas Mr. Totty, the present minister of Eccleshall, is recommended by Mr. Allen, the rector of Stoke, to officiate as his curate in the church within this borough, It is hereby ordered that in case the said Mr. Totty shall be placed and officiate here as curate as aforesaid, That then the said Mr. Totty shall yearly have allowed him out of the town revenues during such time as he continues here and officiates as curate the sum of Twenty Pounds."

The three witnesses to the Rev. Edward Orme's will were Humphrey Burrows, John Riley, and Nathan Williams.

### NATHAN WILLIAMS.

Most likely these two extracts from the "Records" refer to the last-named:—"22nd March, 1708. Ordered that the salary of Nathan Williams, the Parish Clerk, be reduced to forty shillings per annum, he having been very negligent in his office, and that Thomas Stonier, the present Receiver, take notice forthwith of this order and observe it." "2nd October, 1711. Ordered and agreed that the salary of Nathan Williams, the clerk, be augmented four pounds per annum, to begin from Michaelmas last."

Henry Hatrell, one of the Rev. Edward Orme's trustees, paid "Mr. Riley for his attendance on Mr. Orme, and coming to Cheadle . . . . 6s. 6d."

This occurs in the trustees' accounts. Also, in the "Records" there is this item:—"22nd February, 1705. Ordered at this Assembly that the Receivers do pay to Mr. John Riley the sum of one pound three shillings and tenpence, being due to him on account of his pains and medicines about John Smith's grandsons." He was one of the three original trustees for the Presbyterian Meeting House in Newcastle, and he resigned that office in 1715.

## HUMPHREY BURROWS.

In Ralph Beech's will, dated the 19th of February, 1740, Humphrey Burrows is mentioned as having by will given amongst other bequests, "£12 to be set forth to interest on lands or tenements purchased with the same, and the interest thereof yearly employed towards the schooling of three poor children to be chosen as therein is directed."

Also, Humphrey Burrows is mentioned in the "Records:" "28th November, 1727. Whereas by the will of Mr. Humphrey Burrows the sum of Twelve pounds is thereby given, the interest whereof to be applied for teaching three poor children at the discretion of the Mayor and Capital Burgesses in conjunction with his executors, It is therefore hereby ordered that Mr. Ralph Beech, one of his executors, who now hath the money in his hands and hath caused three children to be taught, do for the future advise with the Corporation before he puts any children to be taught." I cannot trace what became of this charity.

Mr. Henry Hatrell took the management of the Orme estate into his own hands, but of course he had to consult the other executor, Mr. John Fenton, on important points.

## THE FIRST SCHOOLMASTER.

The first consideration was the appointment of a schoolmaster to teach the scholars in the Meeting House. The dissenting minister at Tamworth recommended to Mr. Hatrell's notice Mr. Hanson. The latter was invited over to Newcastle and met the two trustees at Mr. Hatrell's house. He was found quite suitable, but he was a dissenter, and Mr. John Fenton would not consent to the appointment of any

schoolmaster who was not of the Church of England. So Mr. Richard Machin came to be appointed the first master of the Orme School in the summer of 1705. He received £5 as a quarter's salary at Michaelmas, 1705, for teaching 40 scholars. There were 44 scholars in the next quarter, and the salary was £6.

The following extract is from the "Records:" —"23rd October, 1705. Whereas Mr. Orme, lately deceased, had by the late Company acting for this borough, in the reign of the late King James the Second, leases made of two several barns, the one standing on the Green and the other in the Lower-street, and Whereas the executors of the said Mr. Orme are desirous to surrender the said leases and accept new ones to be made of the said barns by this Company, It is hereby ordered that upon surrender of the said leases new ones be granted for the remainder of the term yet in being at the usual rent now paid for the same and under the usual covenants."

In 1707 seating accommodation was provided for the English scholars in St. Giles's Church. "14th November, 1707. Ordered that the Churchwardens pay Joseph Swinnerton forty shillings for the wainscot and timber of the seat by him erected at the North Church door, and that the same seat and the two next above be for the use of the English schoolmaster and his scholars."

## JOHN FENTON'S SCHEME.

In 1708 there was the first attempt to deal with the Orme funds by scheme. Mr. John Fenton anticipated the Charity Commissioners by many years.

"Regulations for the English School proposed by John Fenton to his co-trustee, Henry Hatrell.

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In respect to Ourselves.

1.—That all things be transacted by a joint consent.

2.—That wherein we disagree, if the matter will admit it, and requireth a resolution, it be decided by lot.

3.—That accounts be settled once a-year and entered in a book to be kept for that purpose, and all receipts and disbursements relating to the Charity.

With respect to the Master.

1.—That he be capable of and diligent in teaching to read English, write, and cast accounts.

2.—That he be of an honest and virtuous and sober conversation.

3.—That he be licensed by the Bishop of the diocese and hold constant communion with the Church of England.

4.—That he be careful to instruct the children in the principles of religion, make them perfect in the Church Catechism.

5.—That he do by his example encourage and by his commands oblige his scholars to come to church on Sundays, Holy days, and other times of Divine service.

6.—That he be paid quarterly 2s. 6d. for every boy he teaches, the number not to exceed 40, and the year to commence from the 24th of June last.

7.—He keep a roll of all under his tuition, and therein mark their defaults of coming to school or church, and that none be admitted and entered in the roll but at the beginning of a quarter, and by the joint consent of the trustees.

8.—That the Charity boys being under 40, he may during such times take in and teach for pay others to make up the number.

9.—That in case of his removal a quarter's notice be given on each hand.

10.—That upon any boy being struck out within the quarter, yet the Master to receive a full quarter's pay for him.

11.—That from the beginning of March to St. Luke's Day the school hours be from 7 to 11 and from 1 to 5, and the rest of the year from 8 to 11 and from 1 to 4.

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With respect to the Boys.

1.—That all to be admitted be above the age of six years and under 14, but if to write or cast accounts only may be any age under 16.

2.—That they can at least spell well.

3.—That they be kept constantly to school and go to church unless prevented by sickness, and in neglect thereof or for other gross enormity upon complaint made to the Trustees to be struck out of the roll.

4.—That they are competently well habited according to their parents' circumstances, but all kept very clean.

5.—That upon any of them attaining the age of 14 and not staying to write or cast accounts, he be turned off and his name struck out of the roll.

6.—That the poorest boys *ceteris paribus* have the preference of being admitted, and in case of boys equally indigent or the Trustees' disagreement, the preference to be determined by lot."

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Although many of these clauses were in force, yet, as a whole, they were not accepted by Mr. Henry Hatrell.

## PURCHASE OF THE KNUTTON ESTATE.

About the end of the year 1709 Gibson's estate in Knutton came into the market, and the Orme trustees thought that the purchase of this estate would be a profitable investment for the charity. Accordingly, an agreement bearing date 25th of March, 1710, was entered into whereby the Orme trustees purchased the messuage in Knutton for £700 from William Gibson, of Knutton, and Mary Gibson, widow, and it was part of the agreement that John Fenton and Henry Hatrell should make a lease of the premises to John Gibson, brother of the male vendor, for any number of years determinable on the death of any three persons to be nominated by the said John Gibson, subject to the yearly rent of £35, payable at Midsummer and Christmas, the landlord to bear all taxes incident to the estate and bear the charge of repairs except thatching and glazing.

In accordance with this latter part of the agreement, John Fenton and Henry Hatrell, by indenture bearing the same date, the 25th of March, 1710, demised all the aforesaid messuage and premises to the said John Gibson for 99 years determinable upon the lives of the said John Gibson, John and William, sons of the said John Gibson, at the yearly rent of £35. The estate was reckoned to be of the value of above £40 per annum, but the buildings were much out of repair, and Mr. Hatrell had not £700 to pay the purchase money, so the trustees in order to complete the repairs and the purchase money mortgaged the farm at Knutton to Ralph Shaw, of Burslem, for £150.

## PAYMENT OF THE CORPORATION DEBT.

Amongst the sums of money which the Rev. Edward Orme had lent out at interest was one of £100 to the Corporation of Newcastle at 5 per cent. He tried to get this money paid in 1711, no doubt with a view to clearing off the mortgage on the Knutton farm, but it was not until 1715 that the Corporation paid up, and the following extract from the "Records" shows how it was done :—"17th September, 1715.—Agreed at this assembly that a mortgage be made to Mr. John Bourne of all the town lands contained in Mr. Hatrell's mortgage in consideration of the sum of two hundred and fifty pounds, And that the same be applied towards paying off Mr. Hatrell's present mortgage money, interest, and charges. The sum of one hundred and twenty pounds which the Corporation owes to Mr. John Moreton, and what interest shall be due for the same, and also the sum of seventeen pounds which is due to Mr. Thomas Fenton."

The following was the income of the Orme Charity in 1711 :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rent of Gibson's Farm at Knutton... | 35 | 0 | 0 |
| Thomas Colclough on bond..... | 6 | 12 | 0 |
| Ralph Beech, for a house and a barn in Lower-street, and land in Poolfield, per annum..... | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| | 50 | 12 | 0 |

Because the Newcastle Corporation paid up their debt to the Orme trustees the receipts in the year 1716 were £157 19s. 2d., but actually the disbursements exceeded that amount.

## THE FIRST ORME SCHOOL BUILT.

This was due to the destruction of the Meeting House (which was used as a school) by rioters in July, 1715. Upon this accident Mr. Hatrell decided to build a school and a house for the master. Accordingly, in the latter part of 1715 the building of the first Orme School was begun, and it was completed in the following year. This "schoolhouse" and the "small dwelling-house for the master and scholars" are still in existence, and constitute one building which adjoins the Meeting-house not many yards away from the old tower of St. Giles's Church.

The schoolroom used to be in the upper part o the building, but it has now been divided into three rooms, and the door communicating with the lower part of the house has been built up. The caretaker of the Unitarian Chapel, as the old Meeting house is now called, lives in the upper part, and some other people rent the lower "schoolmaster's dwelling-house." When the building was finished outside, Mr. Hatrell desired Mr. Fenton, because he was intimate with the new Dean of Chester, that he would beg some poplars of him growing near the school, so that the interior might be completed. The Dean gave one and Mr. Fenton was present to choose it. The total cost of building the school was £104 11s. 2½d., which accounts for the enormously increased expenditure of £158 7s. 9d. in the year 1716.

CHAPTER XIV.

# THE TRUSTEES OF THE ORME SCHOOL.

By reason of the expense incurred in building a school in 1715, the Orme trustees were not able to pay off the mortgage of £150 on the estate at Knutton. In the purchase deed of this same estate they had neglected to declare the trust, perhaps because they hoped in a short time to clear off the debt. This they were not able to do, and when they made a deed of declaration of the trust on March 15, 1727, the mortgage to Ralph Shaw, of Burslem, still remained.

## DECLARATION OF TRUST.

On the deed there is this endorsement:—"MEMORANDUM. That before the sealing and delivery hereof the within named Henry Hatrell doth declare that by certain Indentures Tripartite made between the within named John ffenton and Henry Hatrell of the first part, William Lawton mercer and John Ryley both deceased of the second part, and Samuel Machin deceased, Ralph Beech, John Burgess deceased, George Ryley, John Ryley Junr. and James Robinson of the third part, and duly executed with Livery of Seisin, the said Henry Hatrell, William Lawton, and John Ryley senr. did enfeoff the said Samuel Machin, Ralph Beech, John Burgess, George Ryley, John Ryley Junr. and James Robinson and their heirs of all that the site of the late house or building in Newcastle aforesaid lately demolished by certain Rioters called the Meeting House together with all the land thereto adjoining, all which or great part thereof was inclosed by a new brick wall and adjoining to the said site of the said Meeting House and to the Churchyard in Newcastle aforesaid together with all water easements and hereditaments to the premises aforesaid or any part thereof belonging used or appertaining, To have and to hold to them and their heirs to the uses after mentioned that is to say as to the site of the said Meeting House and a small parcel of land about a yard in

breadth all along the upper end thereof between it and the churchyard and Liberty to build and repair the same to the use of the said Samuel Machin, Ralph Beech, John Burgess, George Ryley, John Ryley Junr. and James Robinson their heirs and assigns for ever.

## THE SITE OF THE FIRST ORME SCHOOL.

And as for and concerning so much of the lower end of the land on the south side of the said Meeting House reaching down to the lane at the bottom thereof as the same was then meered out on which an English Schoolhouse was intended to be built with some other conveniences for the use of the English Schoolmaster and his Scholars to the use of the said John ffenton and Henry Hatrell and their heirs for ever, And as to all the rest of the premises whereof there was no use before devised. To the use of the said John ffenton and Henry Hatrell, Samuel Machin, Ralph Beech, John Burgess, George Ryley, John Ryley Junr. and James Robinson and their heirs to be for ever used in common with the said Schoolhouse and Meeting House designed to be built as aforesaid.

## THE SCHOOL BUILT IN 1715.

"And the said Henry Hatrell doth hereby declare That the said Schoolhouse and a small dwelling-house and two houses of easement for the said Master and Scholars were soon after built on the land and meered out aforesaid and the greatest part of the charge thereof defrayed out of the trust money in the hands of the said Henry Hatrell and that the said Schoolhouse, dwelling-house, and premises last mentioned ever since the building thereof have been used for a school to teach the said poor children in and for the habitation of the said Schoolmaster and that the same and all the rest of the premises conveyed aforesaid to the said John ffenton and Henry Hatrell and the rents and profits thereof are in trust for the charitable uses within mentioned And the said John ffenton doth hereby for himself and his heirs disclaim all Right and Title to his own use or for his own benefit or advantage of, in, or to the above mentioned buildings, lands and premises and doth hereby testify and declare That so much thereof as hitherto hath been, shall, and may at all times hereafter (so far as Law and

Equity will permit) be employed and made use of, to and for the Advancement of the Charity and in Execution of the Trust within mentioned.

" J. FFENTON
" H. HATRELL.

Witnesses :

" FFRA BURTON.
" JOHN FENTON Junr., mercer.
" RICHARD BOOKER,
" J. FFENTON Junr."

The third witness, Richard Booker, was the then Head-master of the Grammar School.

## RICHARD MACHIN *V.* THE TRUSTEES.

The immediate cause of this Deed of Declaration of the Trust was Mr. Richard Machin, the Schoolmaster. He wanted an increase of £2 per annum, but the trustees thought it would be better if they decreased his salary by £2 per annum until the mortgage of £150 on the Knutton Farm might be paid off. Mr. Hatrell seems to have made some sort of agreement with Mr. Machin that in consideration of building the School and the Master's house the salary should be so reduced.

## INQUISITION OF 1727.

Dissatisfied with his position, Mr. Richard Machin applied himself to the Lord Bishop of Lichfield, who appointed Mr. Dean Allen to hear both sides and report the matter to him ; but an Inquisition was taken at Wolseley Bridge in the county of Stafford on Oct. 12, 1727, before Ralph Sneyd, Esq., Richard Ryder, gentleman, John Taylor, Michael Ward, William Jervis, and Thomas Olliver, clerks, for the execution of a Statute to redress the misemployment of lands, goods, &c. given to charitable uses, by the oaths of John Bourne, William Holland, John Jackson, Cornelius Reading, Robert Kemp, William Barbour, Richard Stych, Thomas Plant, Thomas Barefoot, William Turner, Richard Warner, Joshua Stonehewer, John Braddock, and Benjamin Allen.

It was testified that Henry Hatrell proved the Rev. Edward Orme's will, exhibited an inventory of the testator's personal estate, and received £1,193 18s. 6d., part of the personal estate, and took £176 12s. 7½d. of the £1,193 18s. 6d., and paid and discharged the debts of the Rev. Edward

Orme, and that there remained after payment of the said debts, for the charitable uses in the will specified £717 5s. 10½d., residue of the testator's personal estate.

Testimony was given as to the appointment of Richard Machin to be schoolmaster, also to the purchase and mortgage of the Knutton Farm, and to the Declaration of Trust on March 15, 1727.

## BREACHES OF TRUST.

The jurors further said that £20, part of the trust money, was, in 1715, expended extravagantly by Henry Hatrell in building a school and schoolhouse, and that the same might have been finished at a less expense by £20, and that Henry Hatrell yearly detained the sum of £2 out of the charity, as a salary for his care in managing the said trust, and that Henry Hatrell ought to have placed out two boys, yearly apprentices, and that he did not place out two boys, nor brought the £5 given by the will for that use to account, but was debtor to the charity for the said £5, and that he placed poor children in the said school to be taught, that were not poor children of Newcastle, and thereby kept poor children of Newcastle out of the said school, which was a breach of trust.

## THE JUDGES' DECISION.

On Nov. 21, 1727, after the defendants, John Fenton and Henry Hatrell, and their counsel had been duly heard, the judges decided that the two trustees should hand over within three months the trust of the charity to new trustees. Also, Henry Hatrell was found guilty in regard to the extravagant expenditure of £20 on the school, in detaining £2 yearly for his own salary, in neglecting to place out two boy apprentices, and more especially in mortgaging the Knutton Farm to Ralph Shaw. Also, Ralph Beech, who had a lease of the messuage in Newcastle, and who had allowed it to get into a ruinous condition, was ordered to put it in proper repair by Midsummer, 1728. Henry Hatrell was ordered to pay Richard Machin, the complainant, £70 "for the charges in sueing out the said commission and in presenting the said inquisition and this decree."

## THE INQUISITION OF NO EFFECT.

The date of the writ under the great seal of England for holding the Inquisition was Feb. 11, 1727, and between that date and the holding of the Inquisition in October and November, 1727, King George I. died [June 10, 1727]. Mr. Hatrell put in exception to the decree, but the merits of the cause never came to be discussed, for the Lord Chancellor declared it to be his opinion that all the proceedings of the Court after notice of the King's death were void.

One point in the indictment was that two boys named Latkins and two named Vyse, who were not inhabitants of Newcastle, were admitted to the school.

## JOHN CARTWRIGHT'S WILL.

In John Cartwright's will of 1773 certain bequests were granted to the scholars of the Orme School, and the name of the schoolmaster occurs. John Cartwright, of Newcastle-under-Lyme, gentleman, agent to Sir Nicholas Bayley, of the Isle of Angelsea, bequeathed to his executors £500 to be put out on good security and the interest to be used for clothing as many of the free scholars of the English Charity School in Newcastle as the money would extend to and to such scholars as the executors deemed the poorest, also to his executors £500 to be put out at interest for clothing the poor girls of the Girls' Charity School in Newcastle, also to his executors £50 upon trust that they should pay and employ the same towards purchasing an organ for the use of the Church of Newcastle in case the gentlemen and inhabitants of Newcastle would make a subscription sufficient to complete the same, that it might be fixed and made a proper use of in the said church, and if a sufficient sum should not be raised for that purpose within 12 months after his decease, then upon further trust to use the interest for buying Bibles for the use of the poorest boys that were free to the English Charity School in Newcastle. The executors appointed were Capt. Nicholas Bayley, second son to Sir Nicholas Bayley, of Anglesea, Ralph Sneyd, of Keele, the Rev. John Fernyhough, the minister of Newcastle, the Rev. Isaac Moreton, schoolmaster of the English School in Newcastle. The will was dated July 2, 1773 .and the witnesses were Isaac Moreton, Edward Fox, and Abigail Bucknall.

## NEW TRUSTEES.

By reason of old age, Henry Hatrell on Feb. 7 and 8, 1737, assigned his half trusteeship to John Bourne, and on April 27 and 28, 1738, John Fenton assigned his half trusteeship to John Fenton, jun., Thomas Fenton and Robert Fenton. Henry Hatrell died on Sept. 4, 1738, and John Fenton died in April, 1746.

On March 24 and 25, 1760, John Bourne assigned his half trusteeship to the Rev. John Fernyhough, minister of St. Giles's Church, and to Thomas Fernyhough, the Town Clerk of Newcastle; and in this deed John Bourne said that the three Fentons had died without assigning their trusteeship. After the death of Thomas Fernyhough, the Town Clerk, the only Orme trustee was the Rev. John Fernyhough, who executed the trust until the time of his death in 1803.

## THE DIFFICULTY IN 1803.

The puzzle then was to know who ought to be trustees of the Orme funds. Counsel's opinion was taken, and it was decided that half the trusteeship went in reversion to the heir of John Bourne and half went to the heir of the survivor of the three brothers John, Thomas, and Robert Fenton. The Town Clerk and the minister of St. Giles's Church only had a life interest. Robert Fenton, who died in March, 1760, survived his brothers John and Thomas. Jane Clownam (*nee* Fenton) and Elizabeth Fenton became the trustees in 1803, but the former died Feb. 2, 1804, and left Jane Clownam and Delicia Clownam as co-heiresses. On the death of Jane Clownam in July, 1825, the two surviving trustees, Delicia Clownam and Elizabeth Fenton, on Aug. 18 and 19, 1825, conveyed their interest to Thomas Fenton and Robert Fenton, the younger.

CHAPTER XV.

# THE ORME TRUST ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

The following extracts from the "Records" show that after the Chancery proceedings in 1727 the Orme Trustees, John Fenton and Henry Hatrell, contemplated assigning their trust to the Corporation of Newcastle. "28th November, 1727. Whereas it is expected that Mr. Hatrell will except against the decree made by the Commissioners of charitable uses relating to Mr. Orme's Charity School, It is therefore hereby ordered that in case Mr. Hatrell shall appeal to the Lord Chancellor against such decree made by the said Commissioners, That all future expenses and charges in supporting thereof shall be borne and paid by the Corporation, And that Mr. Machin, the present Schoolmaster, be saved harmless and indemnified from all such future charges and expenses." "24th December, 1728. Whereas an order was made and entered the 28th November, 1727, for the Corporation to be at all future expenses in the cause betwixt Mr. Machin, Schoolmaster, and Mr. Orme's Executors, It is therefore hereby ordered that such vote or order be from this day repealed and made void and that Mr. Blest Colclough, who hath been concerned for the Corporation since then have notice to desist in the said cause."

"Agreed at this assembly that the Deed Poll now produced and read relating to Mr. Orme's Charity School be enrolled in Chancery and that the Corporation be at the charge thereof." "4th January, 1731. At this assembly the company appoints Mr. Mayor, Mr. Thomas Fenton, Mr. Stubings, and Mr. Town Clerk to inspect Mr. Hatrell's account in relation to Mr. Orme's Charity, and to make a report of their Sentiments of it at the next meeting."

"29th June, 1732. Agreed that a security be made out of the Toll Corn to Mr. John Fenton and Mr. Henry Hatrell for their indemnity on account of Mr. Orme's Charity upon their assigning over that trust to the Corporation in such manner as Counsel shall advise; provided the

value of such security do not exceed four hundred pounds, And further it is ordered that the Corporation pay such sum as shall appear to be due to the said Mr. Fenton and Mr. Hatrell upon a balance of accounts.'' '' 30th September, 1732. Ordered and agreed that three parts of the draft now read relating to Mr. John Fenton and Mr. Henry Hatrell assigning over their trust of the English Charity School, be engrossed and the Corporation Seal affixed thereto at some subsequent meeting.''

But the trustees did not resign until 1737 and 1738.

## THE ORME PEW IN THE CHURCH.

By indenture dated 26th February, 1747, Thomas Phillips in consideration of £2 12s. 6d., granted to John Bourne and Robert Fenton, the then trustees of the Orme Charity, their heirs and assigns, a pew or seat at the lower end of the church of Newcastle, adjoining the steeple, being at the south end of the font, containing in length 14 feet, and in breadth about four feet, in trust for the charity children to sit in every Sunday.

The mortgage on the Knutton farm at different times was assigned to various persons. On April 5, 1770, the residue of the mortgage term (it was for 1,000 years from Sept. 29, 1710) was conveyed to Thomas Mountford, interest on the sum of £150 being reserved at 4 per cent. instead of 5 per cent. per annum. Thomas Mountford took this assignment in trust for the Rev. John Fernyhough, who was one of the Orme trustees.

## RICHARD RHEAD, SCHOOLMASTER.

In the year 1781 Richard Rhead was appointed the schoolmaster, with a salary of thirty guineas, and he was to live in the dwelling-house on the school premises rent free. For this salary he was to teach 40 poor boys, who were to be nominated by the trustees. In 1784 his salary was raised to 40 guineas ; and about 1797 he requested the trustee, the Rev. John Fernyhough, to increase his salary to 60 guineas, and to permit him to remove his residence from the schoolhouse in Newcastle to a farm which he had taken about a mile off at Knutton. From Midsummer, 1797, 50 boys instead of 40 were appointed, and the Schoolmaster removed to Knutton. Most likely, although there is no actual record, his

requests were granted, because it had been agreed that an increase in salary was to follow an increase in the number of scholars.

About the year 1789 the Knutton estate (including the close occupied by the schoolmaster and six acres of land in the town fields) was let to Mr. George Robinson as yearly tenant, at the rent of £70, the landlord paying all taxes. In 1796 a lease of all these premises to George Robinson for a term of 21 years at the same rent was prepared, but never executed. In 1801 Mr. Robinson died, and Mr. Thomas Sparrow, who had previously been in partnership with him in another farm, belonging to the Marquis of Stafford, stated that he undertook the management of his affairs for the benefit of his family, and that at Lady-day, 1802, he took the Knutton farm and the other premises above-mentioned on his own account as yearly tenant, upon the same terms—viz., at the rent of £70, the landlord paying all taxes; but that prior to Lady-day, 1802, he had no interest in the school estate.

## THE SCHOOLMASTER'S LAND AT KNUTTON.

The close afterwards held by Mr. Rhead, the schoolmaster, though it formed part of the premises let to Mr. Sparrow, was, according to the latter's statement, never in his occupation, for it had been underlet to Mr. Rhead, before he took the farm, by Mr. Robinson. The Schoolmaster said that he took the close in 1805 off Mr. Robinson, but at that time Mr. Robinson had been dead between three and four years. It was a matter of dispute upon what terms the Schoolmaster took the close, whether he was to pay rent according to the proportion which the tenant paid for the whole farm, or according to the actual value. No settlement ever took place, either between Mr. Robinson or Mr. Sparrow and Mr. Rhead. In 1820, at the instance of Mr. Fenton, Mr. Sparrow agreed that the farm should be valued, and that he would either take it at a new rent according to such valuation, or give it up to the trustees. Thomas Ledward and Innes Booth, two farmers, living in the neighbourhood, and experienced in valuing land, were appointed for the purpose by Mr. Fenton, the former having been also approved of by Mr. Sparrow; and the farm, exclusive of the close held by the Schoolmaster, was valued by them at £120 8s. 1d., the

landlord paying the land tax, and the house and buildings to be put into tenantable repair. The particulars of this valuation were not definitely communicated to Mr. Sparrow, but he understood from Mr. Fenton that it was upwards of £100. No agreement was made as to the terms upon which he should continue tenant, nor was he called upon either to give up the land or to take it at the above valuation. Mr. Sparrow continued in possession of the farm without any specific agreement. However, from Lady-day, 1822, he paid rent at the rate of £120 per annum, subject to a deduction for the amount of the land tax, until he gave up the farm at Lady-day, 1825.

## MANAGEMENT OF THE TRUST.

From 1807 until 1825 Jane Clownam, Delicia Clownam, and Elizabeth Fenton were the Orme trustees, but they never acted in the trust. The only superintendence exercised was that of Mr. Thomas Fenton, solicitor, of Newcastle, on the behalf of Mrs. Elizabeth Fenton, his mother (with the occasional assistance of his brother, Mr. Robert Fenton) for the purpose of filling up vacancies in the scholars, and keeping on foot in some degree the objects of the trust. They did not, however, feel themselves authorized to interfere any further, as the charity accounts were left by Mr. Fernyhough in great confusion, and it was supposed that there was a considerable balance due to his estate from the charity. Also the accounts with the Schoolmaster and with Mr. Thomas Sparrow, the principal tenant, were unsettled

## PROVISION FOR APPRENTICES.

The Rev. Edward Orme directed that £5 per annum should be applied in putting out apprentices. To answer this portion of the charity, six days' work of land which were devised by the testator and lay in the Pool Field were for some time let to John Massey, a mercer at Newcastle, at about five guineas, which he was to pay, by providing clothes for the boys who were appointed by the trustees to receive them, on being put out apprentices. Upon Mr. Massey's death in 1803 this land was let to Mr. Plant, a mercer in Newcastle, at the rent of £7 17s. 6d., upon the like terms—viz., that he was to provide clothing to the amount of £2 10s. for each boy to be put out apprentice. In 1817 the enclosure of the Com-

mon Fields began, and at Lady-day, 1818, an allotment having been set out in Stubbs' Field in lieu of the common land in the Pool Field, Mr. Plant became the tenant of that allotment at £13 13s. per annum, being allowed the amount of the tithe rent, which was £1 5s. 3½d. yearly. These terms were fixed by the Commissioners. He continued in possession up to his death in the latter end of the year 1821, and he supplied several boys with clothing, but he died insolvent and without rendering any account. At Lady-day, 1822, the land was let to William Shelley at £13 13s., subject to land tax and the tithe rent.

## EARLY APPRENTICES.

The names of all these boys who were apprenticed to various trades in the borough can be ascertained from the "Records." The sanction of the Corporation was always sought by the Orme Trustees. The following is the first entry relating to this part of the trust:—"24th December, 1706. Whereas Mr. John Fenton and Mr. Henry Hatrell executors of Mr. Orme's will desire the consent and approbation of this Company to put Ralph the son of Ralph Bolton of this Borough an apprentice to his said father to the trade of a carpenter and to pay to his said father 50 shillings in consideration thereof, Ordered at this assembly that the same be done according to their desire." On Nov. 22, 1715, there occurs this entry:—"At this assembly the Company did refuse to join with Mr. Orme's executors in putting forth Unsworth's son to Mr. Lawton." And in the following year the Corporation granted one application and refused another. The difficulty about "Unsworth's son" seems to have been settled in 1717. "11th June 1717. At this assembly the Company did unanimously concur with Mr. Orme's executors in putting forth Henry the son of John Broughall apprentice to Mr. Ralph Beech, And at the same time did concur with them in putting forth Jonathan the son of Thomas Unsworth to Robert Hulme." Evidently the concurrence was not unanimous in the second case.

In 1825 the total income of the Charity was about £165. In the same year the Schoolmaster, Richard Rhead, let his house for £5 per annum. He was living out at Knutton, and there was actually due to him from the Orme funds a sum of £349 12s. 2d.

CHAPTER XVI.

# THE ORME ESTATES AND RENTS.

After the Charity Commissioners' report in 1825 the Orme School was closed for more than 20 years. At that time there was due, besides the sum of nearly £350 to the Schoolmaster, £183 to Mr. Sparrow and £600 to the representatives of the Rev. John Fernyhough, the trustee who died in 1803. From 1807 until 1825 Mr. Thomas Fenton, solicitor, had acted for his mother, Elizabeth Fenton, and the Clownam trustees, but he had not kept proper accounts, partly because so much money was really owing to the executors of the Rev. John Fernyhough. After many years, Mr. Thomas Fenton was called to account. The following extract from the "Records" refers to the Chancery proceedings :—"9th May, 1845. Ordered that a Committee consisting of Alderman Mackenzie, and Councillors Henry Hall, Hargreaves, Highfield, Hyde, Robey, and Shubotham be appointed to enquire into the state of the Chancery Suit respecting Orme's English School and to ascertain the best steps for obtaining a speedy settlement thereof." This report was presented on June 14, 1845, and Mr. Thomas Harding's bill of costs in connection therewith was paid Aug. 14, 1846—£20 2s. 2d. The committee thought that their inquiries should be directed more particularly to these points :—

## THE CHANCERY SUIT.

"(*a*) To ascertain the present state of the suit and the best means to be adopted for bringing it to a speedy settlement; (*b*) to ascertain the amount of the funds now in the Court or elsewhere, and to procure a copy of the amounts; (*c*) to ascertain as far as possible whether the rents of the estates belonging to the charity had been duly paid." Mr. Thomas Harding, solicitor, was deputed to proceed to London to make inquiries at the Master's Office. In his report, he stated that the draft of the Master's general report was obtained in December, 1844, and that the report would finally be settled in July, 1845. Mr. Thomas Fenton had been told to show the

Master of what the charity property consisted and to render an account. Mr. Harding's report to his committee then proceeds :—"I also find from the Master's Report that the sum received by Mr. Fenton in respect of the Charity property up to and inclusive of his last account rendered in the early part of the present year amounts to £3,818 17s. 7½d., and that his payments and disbursements (in which is included a sum of £222 11s. pursuant to an order) amount to the sum of £1,490 0s. 1½d., so that (after deducting the latter amount) there remains in his hands, exclusive of the rents, if any, received by him since the passing of his last account, the sum of £2,328 17s. 6d.

In order the more clearly to explain whether the rents of the lands belonging to the charity are regularly paid and by whom they are received, I consider it necessary to detail fully the property belonging to the charity, and which according to the above-mentioned Report consists of the following particulars :—

## THE ORME ESTATES.

1st. The School at the West end of the Church Yard in Newcastle with a Dwelling-house adjacent thereto, formerly held by Richard Rhead the Schoolmaster rent free and now void.

2nd. Certain sittings in the Parish Church of Newcastle.

3rd. A Malthouse near the south end of the Lower Street in Newcastle with a small house adjoining, both heretofore held by the Executors of John Bill and since by Thomas Leech at the yearly rent of £21 subject to Land Tax, and subsequently by Samuel Prime, who quitted at Michaelmas 1843 upon his own notice when the Malthouse was let to Thomas Leech at a reduced rent of £15.

4th. A close of land in Newcastle in the lately enclosed Pool Field containing 2 roods and 12 perches, heretofore held by Abraham Jarvis, since by Ambrose Downes and now by Robert Rhodes at the yearly rent of £2 subject to Land Tax, &c.

5th. A close of land in the lately enclosed Stubbs Field containing 3 acres 2 roods and 16 perches, lying partly in Newcastle and partly in the Township of Penkhull within the Parish of Stoke-upon-Trent, formerly let to William

Shelley and since to Matthew White, but from Michaelmas 1829 to Robert Hill at the yearly rent of £13 13s.

N.B.—The said closes in Pool Field and Stubbs Field have been allotted to this Charity under an Enclosure Act of the 56th year of King George III. for enclosing lands in Newcastle, &c., partly in lieu of 6 days' work of land in Pool Field which were demised to this Charity by the will of Edward Orme the founder, and partly in lieu of 7 days' work of land in Ash Field which where purchased on behalf of the Charity along with the Knutton Estate hereinafter mentioned.

6th. The Knutton Estate comprising as follows :—

(*a*) A close of land called Pilly Croft containing 2 acres 1 rood 30 perches, held formerly by John Massey and afterwards by Robert Williams, since by Thomas Rhead, but now by John Rhead, Junior, at the yearly rent of £5 2s. 4d., clear of taxes.

(*b*) A close of land called the Meadow containing 2 acres 1 rood 7 perches, heretofore occupied by Richard Rhead as undertenant to Thomas Sparrow the late tenant of the farm next mentioned, afterwards held by the said Richard Rhead as the immediate tenant of the Trustees, and now held by John Rhead, Junior, at the yearly rent of £5 5s., clear of taxes.

N.B.—The last-mentioned meadow is exclusively subject to an annual chief rent of 12s. 10d. to Mr. John Bill.

(*c*) A Messuage, Farm, and lands comprising the following particulars :—

| | A. | R. | P. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Day Hill | 3 | 2 | 38 |
| Big Hall Riding | 12 | 1 | 19 |
| Little Hall Riding | 5 | 0 | 14 |
| Wood | 0 | 2 | 39 |
| Blackmore Meadow or Hall Ridding Meadow | 4 | 0 | 36 |
| Wheat Croft | 4 | 0 | 37 |
| House, Fold, Garden, &c. | 1 | 2 | 10 |
| Top Meadow or Barn Croft | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Well Croft | 2 | 2 | 25 |
| Green Croft | 1 | 3 | 31 |
| Marled Croft | 4 | 3 | 31 |
| Long Meadow or Whitfield Meadow | 4 | 0 | 10 |
| Near Whitfield | 8 | 3 | 11 |
| Far Whitfield | 9 | 0 | 2 |
| | 68 | 2 | 24 |

| | A. | R. | P. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Two several encroachments from the waste adjoining to the said farm and allotted to the Charity under the before-mentioned Enclosure Act besides two other small plots also allotted containing respectively 5 perches.. | 0 | 1 | 32 |
| | 69 | 0 | 16 |

N.B.—The last-mentioned Farm and lands were formerly in the holding of Thomas Sparrow but were let from Lady-day 1825 to Joseph Calton at the yearly rent of £133 clear of taxes but subject to an allowance of £33 out of the first year's rent to be expended in repairs of outbuildings. Calton quitted at Lady-day 1834 by notice from himself and the Farm was let at the rent of £96 6s. 7d. to John and Thomas Rhead upon the valuation of Mr. Allen Booth, at which rent John Rhead and John Rhead, Junior, are the present occupiers, subject to the annual deduction of the Chief Rent of £1 5s. 0d. aftermentioned.

(*d*) A plot of land at Knutton Heath containing 1 acre 36 perches allotted to the Charity under the before-mentioned Enclosure Act, of which John Rhead, Junior, is the present occupier at the rent of £1 clear of Taxes.

N.B. — The Knutton Estate generally is subject to an annual Chief Rent of £1 5s. 0d. and also a Heriot of the best beast on the death of a tenant dying seised, both payable to the Lord of the Manor of Knutton.

## RENT PAYMENTS.

In case the above-mentioned Report of the Master be correct, which purports to contain all the receipts and payments of the defendant Mr. Fenton up to and including the last account passed by him, it does not appear that any rent has been received in respect of the School or the House adjoining.

The same observation applies to the sittings in the Parish Church of Newcastle. The Rent of the Malthouse and house adjoining appears to have been paid up to Michaelmas 1843 when Mr. Samuel Prime quitted the tenancy thereof. It would seem that the rent of the close of land in the lately enclosed Pool Field and now occupied by Robert Rhodes has been paid up to Lady-day

1836 only. In respect of the close of land in the lately enclosed Stubbs Field and held by Mr. Robert Hill since Michaelmas 1829 at the yearly rent of £13 13s. 0d., only two payments amounting together to £40 appear to have been made. The last account passed by Mr. Fenton shows the receipt by him from Messrs. John Rhead and John Rhead, Junior, of the rent of the Farm and lands at Knutton up to Lady-day 1844, but I am inclined to think that Mr. Calton left an arrear of rent unpaid when he quitted in 1834 and that such arrear is still due from him.

THOMAS HARDING.

Newcastle, 14th June, 1845."

## ORME TRUSTEES IN 1845.

In the High Court of Chancery, 1845, the following trustees of the Orme Charity were appointed:—The Rev. Clement Leigh, Robert Bull, William Henry Hyde, Thomas Turner, Thomas Ward, Thomas Harding, James Spark, William Henshall, James Astley Hall, Thomas Mackenzie, Joseph Bristol, and Thomas Fenton.

In June, 1846, the Orme Trustees applied to Mr. Eld, the agent of Lord Ferrers, with a view to purchasing a site on the west side of Liverpool-road for a new school. In November, 1846, they applied to Mr. Steward, the Duke of Sutherland's agent, to negotiate part of the Rye Croft for a site. Because no marketable title for the latter could be got, the trustees in December decided to purchase from the Corporation of Newcastle the site of the old Workhouse. The abstract of the title of the Corporation of Newcastle to the premises comprising the old Workhouse provides interesting reading. The property was held under three distinct titles. Two parts formerly belonged to Sir Nigel Gresley, Bart., and his son, Nigel Bowyer Gresley, Esq., and were acquired under two purchases made by the Corporation in 1779 and in 1826 respectively. The premises of the third part belonged to the ancient estate of the Corporation of Newcastle. The evidence of title was substantiated from the "Borough Records."

## THE FIRST PARISH WORKHOUSE.

The following entries show the time at which the Corporation first appropriated these premises to the purposes of the Parish Workhouse, and will also explain that down to the year 1774 the poor

of the parish were supported at the sole expense of the Corporation, there having been no poor-rates until that time.

"March 9th, 1730. Ordered that it be referred to Mr. Mayor, the Aldermen William Sherman and Thomas Phillips to enquire into the state of the poor and to consider how far it may be serviceable to erect a Workhouse within the Corporation and to make a report to the Company of their sentiments at the next meeting."

"June 1st, 1731. Whereas the persons to whom it was referred to consider how far the erecting of a Workhouse might be of service have this day declared their sentiments that they are of opinion it will be of great benefit to the Corporation as well as the poor themselves, And whereas Mr. Mayor caused the Freeholders and most substantial Inhabitants to be convened in the Town Hall who unanimously approved of the proposal of a Workhouse. It is therefore hereby ordered That the houses in the Ireland be immediately repaired and converted into a Workhouse and place of reception for the poor and that the standing Overseer Mr. Raisbeck do remove all the poor thither and take care to employ them in the most proper manner and provide necessaries for them, And that he have four shillings a week for his trouble as Master of the Workhouse during the pleasure of the Corporation."

"August 6th, 1774. Whereas for many years last past not only the greatest part of the annual revenue of the Corporation but also several large sums of money raised by the sale of their Estates and borrowed upon Bond have been expended in the maintenance of the Poor which at this time amounts to double the whole of the Corporation Income, And whereas there is now due from the Corporation a debt of sixteen hundred pounds (as near as the same can be computed) chiefly incurred for the same purpose and it being found impracticable any longer to support these expenses without the utter ruin of the Corporation which lays them under the necessity much against their inclination of calling in the assistance of a poor's rate. It is therefore hereby unanimously ordered, That from henceforth no part of the Corporation revenue shall be applied to the maintenance of the poor except what is appropriated to that purpose by a Decree of the High Court of Chancery made upon the seventh day of February, One thousand seven hundred and forty."

CHAPTER XVII.

# THE ORME SCHOOL IN THE HIGHERLAND.

Upon the erection of the Workhouse on the Keele-road, the overseers of the poor gave up possession of the old Workhouse to the Corporation at Lady-day, 1840. Soon afterwards the old premises were rented from the Corporation for two years by the Board of Ordnance for the purpose of military barracks, but when the Orme Trustees in 1846 wished to purchase the site for the new Orme School the buildings were untenanted.

## THE BOROUGH PRISONS.

Amongst the buildings were the two old prisons, one for the confinement of debtors and the other for felons. When, in 1810, the Corporation leased these premises to the overseers of the poor, they reserved the two prisons and a right of way.

A new scheme was drafted in 1846 consequent on a conveyance to the new trustees. Thomas Fenton, who had acted for the old trustees, had to pay over £2,431 9s. 5d. The following is a summary of the main clauses in the new Orme scheme which came into operation in 1847 :—

## ORME SCHEME OF 1847.

First.—That there should be at least thirteen trustees, who should always be persons resident in the town of Newcastle-under-Lyme, or within seven miles thereof. When a new trustee had to be appointed, the Mayor and Aldermen of the borough were entitled to vote at the election.

Sixth.—Minutes of the proceedings at all meetings of the trustees, containing the names of the trustees present at such meetings, should be drawn up and entered in a book to be kept by the receiver. These minutes should be open to the inspection of any rated inhabitant of Newcastle from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. of each day, Sundays excepted, for the space of ten days after

every meeting, and any such inhabitants should be at liberty to make copies of, or extracts from, the same.

Seventh.—That a particular description of the charity estates and property, with the scheme, should be entered in a book which should be kept, together with the deeds, leases, documents, vouchers, papers, and writings belonging to the charity, in a chest, to be deposited for safe custody in the Parish Church of Newcastle, or in some other place, at the discretion of the trustees for the time being.

## A MEMORIAL OF THE CHARITY.

Eighth.—That a memorial or short account of the charity and the estates and property belonging thereto should be painted on a board, and fixed up in some suitable and conspicuous place in the Parish Church of Newcastle, and a duplicate thereof should also be fixed up in the school, which boards and the inscription thereon should always be kept clean and legible at the expense of the charity.

Ninth.—That as the present school and the dwelling-house adjacent thereto were very old and dilapidated and most ineligibly situated, it should be lawful for the trustees to sell the same, and to apply the money arising therefrom towards the purchase of a piece of land in a more convenient situation in Newcastle-under-Lyme, and in erecting and building thereon a new school and dwelling-house for the schoolmaster.

Tenth.—That no child should be under seven years of age or above 15.

Eleventh.—That the holidays should be fixed, for Midsummer and Christmas, which should not exceed four weeks each time, and the Queen's Birthday, Christmas Day, and Good Friday; and that the master might give such other occasional holidays as the trustees should authorize.

Fifteenth.—That the trustees should not refuse to nominate any child eligible to the charity, if the number of children upon the foundation should not exceed 50. On all nominations of scholars the trustees should give a preference to the children of the most deserving industrious persons, inhabitants of Newcastle.

Sixteenth.—That the rents and profits of the charity estates should be expended by the trustees in repairs, in insuring the buildings, in retaining

the sum of £5 yearly for apprenticing poor children who lived in Newcastle, in accumulating a reserve fund, in paying a competent salary to the master, and in providing such books for the scholars as the trustees in their discretion should think proper, the books being either for the use of the scholars or to be given as prizes.

## THE SCHOOL BUILT IN 1850.

The old Workhouse site in the Higherland was bought from the Corporation of Newcastle by the Orme Trustees in 1849 for £550. Messrs. Ward, of Hanley, were the architects for the new Orme School and the Schoolmaster's house to be erected there. Messrs. Bryan and Son, builders, of Stoke, signed the contract for erecting these buildings in September, 1849. The school and schoolmaster's house were erected in 1850 and the school was opened on July 21, 1851. Mr. Emmanuel Earl, who was the head-master of the British School, built in 1834 (now the Friarswood School), was appointed master of the Orme School at a salary of £120, and, in addition, he had a house, garden, and coal. In White's "Directory of Staffordshire," published in 1851, only the names of the acting trustees were given.

## THE TRUSTEES.

They were the Rector of Newcastle, the Rev. Clement Leigh; Robert Bull, wine merchant; Thomas Turner, druggist; Thomas Ward, solicitor; Thomas Harding, solicitor; James Astley Hall, hat manufacturer; Joseph Bristol, fellmonger; Thomas Fenton, gentleman.

From 1851 until 1874 the only place where the scholars received instruction was the lofty schoolroom, now the assembly-hall of the Middle School. The Master's house adjoining has been altered out of all recognition. The Masters' old common room and the present Head-master's room were the two sitting-rooms in Mr. Earl's house. The two bedrooms above these now comprise the present common room for the masters. Other bedrooms form the landing outside, and the garden has become swallowed up in the playground. The boards that give an account of "Orme's Charity" were put up in the schoolroom in 1855, in accordance with the eighth paragraph of the scheme, published in 1847, and there they are to the present day. Similar boards

erected in the Parish Church were done away with when the old church of St. Giles was demolished in 1873.

It is interesting to compare the details of the Orme estates as written on this memorial with the description of the same in Mr. Harding's report in 1845.

## THE ORME ESTATES IN 1855.

The first part of the estate is thus recorded :— "The New School, Master's House, Playground, Garden, and premises, situate in the Ireland in Newcastle-under-Lyme." The old school premises are described as "now converted into two dwelling-houses." The conversion of the schoolroom into a small dwelling-house consisting of three rooms evidently took place between 1845 and 1855. The malthouse in Lower-street was now in the occupation of Moses Barlow, and Thomas Sorton was the tenant of the small house adjoining.

The close of land in the enclosed Pool Field, containing 2r. 12p., was occupied by Joseph Griffiths ; and the close of land in the Stubbs Field was tenanted by John Palmer.

George Rhead had succeeded John Rhead, jun., as occupier of the lands in Knutton, and the seventy-acre farm was tenanted by John and George Rhead. Under the new trustees the mines and mineral royalties were contributing largely to the annual income of the Orme Charity. Mr. William Francis Gordon, of Walsall, was the first leaseholder of these mines. Also, in 1855, there was a capital sum of £667 14s. 4d. invested in 3 per cent. consolidated annuities.

The accounts of Orme's Charity are extant from 1847, four years before the second Orme School was built. The total receipts in 1847 were £291 19s. 4d., and this sum included two years' rent of the Knutton Farm and a sum of £50 paid by Mr. Colton by agreement for arrears of rent. The expenses were slightly in excess of £15. Mr. Thomas Harding was the receiver for the trustees and the Rector (the Rev. Clement Leigh) was chairman. The following is a list of the chairmen of the Orme Trustees down to and including the year 1872 :—

## CHAIRMEN OF THE ORME TRUSTEES.

1847.—The Rev. Clement Leigh, Rector of New-
1849.—Thomas Ward, solicitor. [castle.
1851.—Thomas Ward.
1852.—Thomas Turner, druggist.
1853.—Thomas Ward.
1854.—James Astley Hall, hat manufacturer.
1855.—Thomas Ward.
1856.—John Drewry Mort, newspaper pro-
1857.—James Astley Hall. [prietor.
1858.—James Astley Hall.
1859.—James Astley Hall.
1860.—Thomas Ward.
1861.—Thomas Turner.
1862.—Thomas Ward.
1863.—Thomas Ward.
1864.—James Astley Hall.
1865.—Thomas Ward.
1866.—John Lamb, paper manufacturer.
1867.—Ralph Mosley, draper.
1868.—John Drewry Mort.
1869.—John Drewry Mort.
1870.—John Drewry Mort.
1871.—Ralph Mosley.
1872.—William Cartwright, druggist.

## FULL LIST OF TRUSTEES.

In 1853 the following were the thirteen Orme Trustees :—

Robert Bull, wine and spirit merchant ; Thomas Turner, druggist ; Thomas Ward, solicitor ; Thomas Harding, solicitor ; James Astley Hall, hat manufacturer ; Francis Stanier, Esq. ; Edward Wilson, doctor ; Samuel Mayer, currier ; John Lamb, paper manufacturer ; John Drewry Mort, newspaper proprietor ; John Hallam, wine and spirit merchant ; Thomas Walton Mayer, veterinary surgeon ; John Eldershaw Phillips, grocer.

In 1855 Liddle Elliot, engineer, and Samuel Edwards, upholsterer, became trustees in place of Robert Bull and Thomas Harding.

In 1856 William Hargreaves, grocer, William Cartwright, druggist, and Joseph Cooper, gentleman, became trustees in place of Francis Stanier, Edward Wilson, and Thomas Walton Mayer.

In 1862 John Eldershaw Phillips was no longer a trustee.

In 1863 Edwin Hill, tailor and draper, Frederick Crewe, bookseller, and Ralph Mosley, mercer and draper, were appointed trustees in place of John Eldershaw Phillips, Samuel Mayer, and Joseph Cooper.

In 1866 William Mellard, ironmonger, John Broomhall, tailor and draper, and Henry Hall, timber merchant, became trustees in place of Frederick Crewe, James Astley Hall, and Liddle Elliot.

In 1868 Joseph Baildon, ironmonger, Robert William Litchfield, solicitor, and William Henry Dutton, solicitor, were the trustees appointed in place of Thomas Ward, Edwin Hill, and John Lamb.

In 1870 Charles Howard King, brewer, was appointed in place of John Hallam.

## THE ORME INVESTMENTS.

In 1856 the amount invested in 3 per cent. Consols was £2,673 8s. The next year W. F. Gordon paid in mineral royalties £2,420 13s. 5d., and as in 1856 he had paid £1,882 13s. 1d. the amount invested in 3 per cent. Consols at the beginning of 1858 was over £7,000. The amount so invested in 1862 was over £15,000, and in 1866 it was more than £22,000, and at the time of the amalgamation of all the educational charities in 1872 it was just under £29,000.

CHAPTER XVIII.

# THE LAST DAYS OF THE ORME SCHOOL.

The old registers belonging to the Orme School are carefully preserved at the Middle School. The scholars were drafted into the Orme School from the following schools :—The British, Bridgman's, St. George's, The Marsh, the National, and Taylor's. The first date of admission is July 21, 1851, when 76 boys were admitted. The following are the first and last entries in the Orme School admission register :—"No. 1, Joseph Davies, aged 12, son of Joseph Davies, bookbinder and stationer, of the Ironmarket, admitted July 21, 1851, left June 23, 1853, apprenticed to a bookbinder." "No. 741, Ernest Rhodes, aged nine, son of Samuel Rhodes, gardener, of The Higherland, admitted August 7, 1871."

Besides the holidays provided for in the Scheme, Nov. 9, when the Mayor was elected, was always a holiday. Some of the extra holidays are thus recorded :—"Funeral of the Duke of Wellington" [18 November, 1852], "Master ill" [from 1851 until 1856 Mr. Earl was the only master], "Day of humiliation" [there were two because of the Crimean war], "Polling day of General Election," "Railway trip to Sandon," "Trentham holiday." Shrove Tuesday and Whit-Monday became general holidays, but not Easter-Monday. On the last-named day, the number of attendances dropped very considerably. Easter-Monday, Whit-Monday, the first Monday in August, and Dec. 26 were not established by law as Bank Holidays until 1871.

## MASTERS AT THE ORME SCHOOL.

Up till the end of 1855 the numbers in the school averaged rather more than 70. On Dec. 27, 1855, fifty new boys were entered because an assistant-master, Mr. John Farmer, was appointed. From 1856 until the end of 1863 there were 120 scholars, and the school was always full. In 1864 the numbers were increased to 150,

THE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY.

because another assistant was appointed, Mr. Thomas Hodson Brade, and these numbers were kept until the amalgamation of the educational endowments in 1872.

When the boundaries of Newcastle were perambulated in October, 1865, after a lapse of about fourteen years, the past was represented by an old man 75 years of age, Joseph Pattison, and the future by six boys from the Orme School. The latter were utilized to wade through the canals, to clamber over the roofs of houses, &c., and at night, weary and wet, they had not quite finished their task.

## PROPOSED EXTENSION.

On March 3, 1868, a quarterly meeting of the Orme trustees, presided over by Mr. John Drewry Mort, was held. The following resolution, proposed by Mr. William Mellard, was carried unanimously :—" That in order to afford accommodation for the education of an increased number of children, and thereby extend the benefits of this charity, a building uniform with the present school be erected on the south-western side of the master's house." At the examination in drawing, held in May that same year by the Department of Science and Art, the Orme School presented 143 boys and 130 were successful.

## INQUIRY ABOUT THE ORME CHARITY.

On Saturday, July 17, 1869, an important meeting of the Orme Trustees took place, and as a very good summary of the business which then was transacted appeared in the *Staffordshire Advertiser* of July 24, 1869, I quote the report :—

" The trustees of this [Orme's] charity were summoned to a meeting on Saturday, at which W. Good, Esq., Inspector of Charities, was present, whose object was to make inquiry concerning the charity, and particularly with reference to the proposed enlargement of the school buildings. There was a good attendance of the trustees, but, unfortunately, Mr. T. Harding, who had held the office of trustee, and subsequently of clerk, for many years, was unavoidably absent. The Inspector made minute inquiry into the causes that had led the trustees to decide (approval being given by the Charity Commissioners) on enlarging the school buildings, carefully examined the building plans, and put many

questions to Mr. Lewis, the architect, respecting them. The class of families from which the boys were elected, the way in which the school was conducted, the kind and extent of education given, the financial condition of the charity, these and other points were brought out during the meeting, and notes made of them by the Inspector. Mr. W. H. Dutton, solicitor, gave expression to some views that he has long entertained, and which if carried out he contends would make the charity much more valuable to the public. His proposition is to have the various funds that have been left to the town for educational purposes, including Orme's charity, of course, united into one common fund, and then, according to a comprehensive plan to be fixed upon, provide educational establishments for youth in the various grades of society, including the poorest, the middle class, and the highest, the latter to be in certain respects self-supporting. Several of the trustees at once said that they perfectly coincided in the views Mr. Dutton had so ably described; whilst others, though not positively dissenting, thought that for the present it would be better to carry out the proposed enlargement that had been mooted for a long time, and defer the consideration of such a scheme as Mr. Dutton had so ably sketched out to a future time. After the trustees had severally expressed their opinions, Mr. Dutton said as there was evidently a diversity of opinion amongst the trustees, he would withdraw his proposition now, in hope that at no distant day, and with the facilities which the Act now passing for the improvement of endowed schools would afford, the trustees would see that by their united efforts great benefit would be conferred on the town in the direction he had pointed out and the cause of education advanced to an extent that would be most gratifying to all its friends. In regard to the above inquiry, it is expected that when Mr. Good has presented the result of his investigation to the Charity Commissioners they will at once communicate with the trustees. If the Charity Commissioners signify their approval of the proposed enlargement, the work will be set about with as little delay as possible, so as to make the best of the building season now remaining."

## THE ENDOWED SCHOOLS ACT.

Nine days after this report appeared, the Endowed Schools Act was passed, two important clauses of which gave power to the Commis-

sioners appointed (1) "to alter and add to any existing and to make new trusts, and to consolidate two or more endowments," (2) "To alter the constitution, rights, and powers of school governors, and to dissolve any such existing bodies as they think fit." Soon after the passing of the Act, the Commissioners issued two circulars. The first stated the object of the Act and explained as to remodelling schools "so as to make them most conducive to the advancement of national education, *more especially in the interest of those classes for whose benefit they were originally designed.*" The other circular was addressed "to the governing bodies, trustees, and managers of all schools falling within the Act," and the Commissioners wanted to learn "not only the needs and resources, *but the wishes and feelings of the different localities in which schools are situated.*"

## MR. GREEN'S REPORT.

But prior to all this, a Schools Inquiry Commission had taken place, and in Volume VIII., published in 1868, Mr. T. H. Green, the Commissioner in this district, gave his report. From it I quote the passages relating to the Newcastle educational endowments :—"At Newcastle, again, the master of the Grammar School has the care of a large parish in the town, and has his attention diverted from the school to a most unfortunate extent." "At Newcastle an impression that the school is unwholesome has definitely prevented boys from being sent to it." "At Newcastle the professional men seemed to have quite given up using the Grammar School." "Among the more educated inhabitants of the Potteries I found a general sense of the want of a good middle or Grammar school. Men, whose families have been rich for one or two generations, naturally do not feel the evil in their own persons. They withdraw to pleasant houses on the outskirts of the district where their wealth is made, and send their sons to the 'public' schools. Those, again—and they are a numerous class—who have themselves risen from being workmen, or something not much higher, to considerable wealth, do not generally feel the want of more education for their sons than is necessary for making money. There remains, however, the large body of professional men which such a population brings together, who cannot obtain on the spot such an education as they desire for their sons, and yet in many cases can ill afford to

send them to good boarding schools. The ministers of religion, of whom, according to the Census of 1861, there were 76 in the Census districts of Stoke and Wolstanton, suffer most in this respect, and many of them spoke to me very feelingly on the matter. *Meanwhile, an oppressive atmosphere of well-to-do ignorance hangs over the district.* The signs of diffused interest in things intellectual, commonly found in large towns, such as evening classes and popular lectures, seem here to be wholly absent."

## ADVICE ABOUT THE ENDOWMENTS.

"Opinion seemed to be divided in Newcastle as to the best way of applying these accumulations. Some were for establishing another school for the poor on the model of the present one: others for founding a middle school. The scholars are nominated by the trustees on the ground of merit in themselves or their parents, not specially on the ground of poverty. Generally they are transferred to Orme's School from the National or British Schools. One such school would be enough for the town, if admission to it, instead of being somewhat arbitrary (as owing to the nomination system it now is), were systematically made a prize for merit at the National and Dissenting Schools of the town, so that it should become distinctly superior to, not parallel with, them. Another free school of the kind would probably rather have the effect of damaging the schools at which pence are paid. It would be a more real boon to give poor boys who have capacity for it a chance of rising to the higher learning, as might be done by establishing for boys in Orme's School small exhibitions to the Grammar School, supposing the latter to be rehabilitated and affiliated to a higher school, according to previous suggestions. Perhaps it might be too sanguine to hope, that any part of the income from the 'Burgesses' Lands' of Newcastle—now spent in payment of some 30s. a-year to each burgess, which is of course wasted—should ever be applied to education."

## THE HIGH SCHOOL FORESHADOWED.

"The funds would quite suffice to establish a high school, which might be so worked as to supply upper departments—one preparatory for the Universities, the other devoted mainly to

physical science, and modern languages—primarily to the improved Newcastle Grammar School, but also to the proposed middle schools at Tunstall and Blythe Bridge, if they should happily come into existence. That such a school might thrive at Newcastle no one who considered the question seemed to doubt: it is a place with many attractions for residents, open to smokeless country on two sides out of four, and only needs a good school to become the genteel suburb of the Potteries and neighbouring iron district."

No doubt Mr. T. H. Green influenced Mr. Dutton very considerably in regard to the best interests for education in this district.

CHAPTER XIX.

# THE AMALGAMATION OF THE EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENTS.

In February, 1870, the Clerk of the Orme Trustees received from the Endowed Schools Commissioners the following letter :—

"Sir,—The Endowed Schools Commissioners have carefully considered the application of the governors of the above foundation for permission to enlarge the school buildings according to the plans prepared by their Architect and forwarded to this office. The proposal of the governors is one which undoubtedly of itself deserves to be regarded with favour, as likely to extend the usefulness of the school in the direction in which it at present appears to be working with efficiency and success. The Commissioners, however, looking at all the circumstances of the case, have decided that it is expedient to defer the carrying out of the proposed enlargement of the buildings till they are able to deal with the foundation by scheme, and to place it on that footing which it will have permanently to occupy. At the same time, they think it due to the governors, whose efficient management of the charity and enlightened interest in the subject of education they cordially recognize, to lay before them the main reasons which have led them to the conclusion at which they have arrived. Having in view the great and increasing value of this foundation, and the need, to which testimony is borne on all hands, of improved and extended secondary education through the populous district of which Newcastle may be regarded as the centre, the Commissioners entertain the hope of being able very greatly to enlarge the objects and to increase the usefulness of Orme's Charity, and to make it, in conjunction perhaps with other available endowments, the means of developing a complete system of education adapted to the various wants of all classes in that part of the country. The Commissioners have in mind particularly the report of Mr. Green, the Assistant Commissioner under the Schools Inquiry Commission, on this foundation (Report, Vol. VIII., p. 219) to which

they invite the best attention of the governors. At present, again, the school appears to be educating gratuitously boys of the poorer classes, who would otherwise probably be found in the National and British Schools of the district. Independently of the fact that they are opposed in principle to purely gratuitous education, except as the reward of merit, the Commissioners think that it would be at least premature to extend the action of the school in its present direction, when there is before the country a proposed national system of primary education, intended to meet the educational requirements of the very class who, under existing arrangements, would be benefited by the enlargement of the school. The Commissioners consider that this fact, and the whole system of State aid granted directly to schools for the education of the poor, which has entirely grown up since the date of this and similar foundations, essentially affect the argument to be drawn from the literal meaning and intention of the bequest. I must add, however, what, it is believed, the governors will be glad to learn, that the Commissioners might feel much hesitation in coming to the conclusion above stated, did they not expect in the course of a few months to be able to enter on the work of re-organizing the Staffordshire schools, and to send an Assistant Commissioner into the neighbourhood. The delay, therefore, involved in the decision at which they have arrived will not be a long one, and they trust it will be amply compensated by the improvements which, through the co-operation of the governors of Orme's Charity, the Town Council of Newcastle, and others interested in their work, they hope to introduce into the educational machinery of the district.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
H. J. Roby.

Endowed Schools Commission,
3, Victoria-street, S.W. 19th February, 1870."

## MR. STANTON AND THE ORME TRUSTEES.

An important meeting of the Orme Trustees was held at the School on Nov. 22, 1870, when Mr. Stanton, one of the Endowed Schools' Commissioners, stated that the Commissioners proposed, in exercise of their powers, to amalgamate the whole of the educational charities of the town, and that a scheme would be submitted to the Orme Trustees in which provision would

be made for the establishment of schools within the borough of three grades. The first grade would be represented by a modern school of a class which would give the benefit of education to pupils in the highest degree. Schools of the second and third grades would embrace branches of education of general utility, qualifying the pupils for almost any calling in life, the only difference in these grades being the periods over which the education of pupils would extend. It was also proposed to have schools of two grades for girls. The Commissioners did not recognize any advantage in gratuitous education, except on the ground of merit, and they proposed to leave elementary education to be provided for by the education bill of the last Session of Parliament.

The Orme Trustees received favourably the outlines of the scheme, as explained by Mr. Stanton, but there was a unanimous feeling that the charities should be applied solely to the advantage of the borough, in accordance with the intent of the donors.

## THE DRAFT SCHEME FOR AMALGAMATION.

In July, 1871, the proposed scheme for the amalgamation of the educational charities was before the public. The following is a summary of it:—(*a*) That the governing body should eventually consist of 12 governors—four *ex-officio*, the Mayor, the Rector, the heir (male) of William Cotton, and the Chairman of the School Board; four representative, two to be chosen by the Town Council and two by the School Board; four co-optative, and special provision was made that the acting Trustees of Orme's School should be co-optative governors. There were the usual clauses as to election of governors, mode of voting, vesting of property, &c. (*b*) That there should be three schools—(1) An upper school for boys, to be called the High School; (2) a lower school for boys, to be called the Middle School; (3) a school for girls, to be called the Orme Girls' School. (*c*) That £5,000 should be granted for the erection of the High School. It was intended to constitute this school one of the great educational foundations of England, with the rather singular exception that Greek was not to be taught therein. The minimum amount of school fees was to be £15 per annum and the entrance fee £4.

(*d*) That the site and buildings of the Orme School should be assigned to the Middle School. Mr. Earl was to be the first head-master. The sum of £500 was to be expended on additional buildings. The entrance fee was to be £3, and the minimum annual tuition fee £3. The curriculum was a broad one, including Latin, French, mathematics, and natural science. (*e*) That the Girls' School should be founded for the education of about 100 pupils, and a grant of £2,000 was proposed. The entrance and tuition fees were to be the same as for the Middle School. (*f*) Certain exhibitions were provided for.

## STRONG LOCAL OPPOSITION.

Immediately after copies of the proposed scheme had been circulated in Newcastle, there was manifested a strong opposition, because, while for the most part the charities were intended by the donors for the benefit of the poor of Newcastle, the Commissioners ignored gratuitous instruction, except as a reward for educational acquirements. On July 27, 1871, a public meeting convened by the Mayor in compliance with a requisition signed by a number of ratepayers to consider the proposed scheme of the Endowed Schools' Commissioners, was held in the Town Hall. Four resolutions were unanimously adopted, the most important of which was the first:—"That the scheme of the Endowed Schools' Commissioners for dealing with the educational charities of the borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme is in the highest degree unsatisfactory: that it is unjust in principle, and, if enforced, will be injurious in effect, setting aside, as it proposes to do, the intention of the founders, by taking entirely away from the necessitous inhabitants of the town funds left for their advantage, and devoting those funds exclusively to the middle and upper classes of Newcastle and neighbouring places." After various meetings of the Orme Trustees, another public meeting was held in the Town Hall on Sept. 27, 1871, to consider "what final steps shall be taken to endeavour either to amend the existing scheme of the Endowed Schools' Commission, or to promote the adoption of another more in accordance with the best interests of the poorer inhabitants of the borough." Five resolutions were unanimously adopted, of which the third was:—"That any scheme to be satisfactory for the town should provide that all moneys belonging to the charities of the town should be

at the disposal of the trustees elected and appointed under the new scheme, to be by them invested to the best advantage; that a sum of £2,500 or £3,000 should be allowed to the School Board to constitute a building fund to provide additional school accommodation required under the Education Act; that a sum of £300 or £400 a-year should be also allowed to the School Board to be applied in payment of the fees of the poor children in elementary schools; that in any scheme for the middle schools, both boys and girls, no entrance fee should be charged, and the tuition fee should be £1 5s., instead of £3 per annum, the exhibitions in both schools being at least one-third of the number of scholars, instead of 10 per cent."

Both the School Board and the Town Council held special meetings about the proposed scheme, and with modifications they adopted the protest sent to the Commissioners by the Orme Trustees.

## THE ORME TRUSTEES' PROTEST.

The following is the protest:—"The Trustees of Orme's School have carefully perused and considered the scheme for the Amalgamated Educational Charities of Newcastle-under-Lyme, and have minuted in red ink sundry objections and additions in the margin of the copy sent herewith, and, subject to these suggestions, they express their approval of the scheme so far as it goes, but they are unanimously of opinion that any scheme for the administration of these charities is utterly incomplete unless provision is made for elementary education. The high school, which this scheme contemplates, would confer a great and inestimable benefit upon the upper and well-to-do classes of society here, for the course of education set forth is of a high character. The Orme's School, and Girls' School likewise, would confer great benefits upon a large and prosperous, though lower class of the community, but the Trustees note with surprise that the great working class, to whom an elementary education would be the greatest boon, are utterly ignored, and that consequently, so far as they are concerned, these great charities must (if this scheme is adhered to) cease to exist. The Trustees earnestly call the attention of the Commissioners to the fact that the large accumulation of moneys in their hands has arisen in a great measure from the bequest of the Reverend Edward Orme, and that the words

of his bequest are so clear and precise that no doubt could ever be entertained of his intentions as regards this charity. [The actual bequest from the will is then quoted.] They also call to the minds of the Commissioners that the residue of the accumulated funds comes from the bequest of Thomas Hatrell. And here also the intention of the founder is clear and without doubt, for the charity was intended for the 'five poorest schools in Newcastle.' Upon such a state of facts it certainly appears harsh and unreasonable that the very classes for which these charities were intended should be deprived of all benefit therefrom. The Trustees do not consider that the provisions of the Elementary Education Act offer any argument for the course proposed by this scheme. It is true that the utterly necessitous poor may be educated under the powers vested in the School Board, and from moneys raised by rates, but the town is now heavily rated, it possesses no staple trade, and comprises a population of very low degree, thus rendering it certain that, however liberal the School Board may be in granting education out of funds to be levied by virtue of their powers, there will always be a large number of the inhabitants who would be unable to make out a case for exemption on the ground of absolute poverty, and yet upon whom both the educational rate and the school fees would tell with great severity. Such a class is now represented by the parents of the present pupils in Orme's School. For many years past these pupils have been selected from the families of the poorest inhabitants, and such has been the number of applicants that the school could at any time have been increased to double its present number from a poor and meritorious class of inhabitants if the accommodation of school buildings had existed. The Charity Commissioners, recognizing the utility of this charity, had within the last two years sanctioned a considerable expenditure to afford this accommodation, but the transfer of endowed schools to your Board prevented the further progress of the matter. The Trustees consider that the existence of Orme's on its present footing for more than 20 years affords another excellent and convincing reason for adhering partially to the present system. The school has been maintained at an annual cost of about £450, and it is therefore urged that if no further concession is made, yet that the poor inhabitants of the town have a just and equitable claim that such an annual sum should be applied for elementary

education. The Trustees for the above reasons and with all deference recommend that the scheme be extended by the insertion of proper clauses providing for elementary education, either gratuitously or at a minimum cost. They suggest that these ideas may be carried out in either of the modes following :—First, by the addition to Section 27, making an elementary school a part of the scheme, and by the addition of clauses for the foundation and government of such school. In the event of such an extension, the trust are of opinion that the funds at their disposal would justify the expenditure of £2,000 in permanent buildings for such educational purposes, and the grant of £400 per annum for the support of such schools. Upon a reasonable calculation, and presuming that a small weekly fee were required with each pupil, there would be little doubt that the whole of the necessitous poor of Newcastle would be educated without undue pressure upon the entire body of the working class. Secondly, or in the alternative, by the grant to the School Board of Newcastle of a sum of £2,000 for the erection of suitable schools for the poorest class, and a grant to that Board of £300 per annum to be applied for the sole purposes of education, either in schools so erected or in others of a proper character. In thus commenting upon the scheme and in making these suggestions, the Trustees feel that they are expressing the hopes and wishes of all classes of the community, and they trust that some concession may be made which will tend to assuage the bitter feeling that has been excited here by a scheme which, however skilfully conceived and however well calculated to promote the eventual prosperity of the town must, in spite of every argument, be regarded by the class which has hitherto derived sole benefit from the charities as a measure absolutely omitting all provision for its interest and welfare, while conferring an immediate and lasting boon upon the higher and more prosperous classes."

CHAPTER XX.

# THE NEWCASTLE ENDOWED SCHOOLS' SCHEME OF 1872.

At the end of November, 1871, the amended scheme for the amalgamation of the Newcastle Educational Endowments was received in the town. After further emendations, the Scheme was signed on March 25, 1872, by Lord Lyttleton and Mr. H. G. Robinson, Endowed Schools Commissioners, and received the Royal assent the same year on Aug. 9.

## THE MAIN SCHEME.

In this scheme for the management of the Newcastle Endowed Schools, the main part comes under the "Scheme for the management of the school founded by the Rev. Edward Orme, at Newcastle-under-Lyme, in the county of Stafford, in the year 1704." There were three minor schemes which dealt with the management of the old Grammar School, Thomas Hatrell's Charity, and the Foundations of John Cowell and Thomas Bagnall. Only the Orme Trustees were consulted by the Endowed Schools Commissioners, and they only were definitely named Co-optative Governors for life.

The accumulated funds of the Orme Charity, nearly £30,000, provided practically all the capital for the new schools to be founded by this scheme in 1872.

## THE GOVERNORS.

The scheme appointed three *ex-officio* Governors, the heir male of William Cotton if he were also the owner of Etwall Hall, the Mayor of Newcastle, and the Chairman of the School Board of Newcastle. There were to be four representative Governors, two nominated by the Town Council of Newcastle and two by the School Board of Newcastle. From the date of the scheme the following selected Orme Trustees were to be Co-optative Governors for life:—Joseph Baildon, ironmonger; John Broomhall, tailor and draper; William Cartwright, druggist; William Henry

Dutton, solicitor; Samuel Edwards, upholsterer; William Hargreaves, grocer; William Mellard, ironmonger; Ralph Mosley, mercer and draper. No vacancy in the co-optative Governors was to be filled up till the number was reduced below four, and future appointments were to be made for five instead of ten years. A governor was to be incapacitated for omitting to attend meetings of the Governors one year instead of two years.

## THE SCHOOLS.

After dealing with the constitution of the governing body and management, the schools to be founded are thus particularized in Part III., Paragraph 28 :—

"The Newcastle Endowed Schools shall consist of—

An Upper School for boys, to be called the High School;

A Lower School for boys, to be called the Middle School;

A School for Girls, to be called the Orme Girls' School;

to be established on convenient and suitable sites in, or in the immediate neighbourhood of, Newcastle. The Middle School and the Orme Girls' School shall be for day scholars exclusively."

In Part IV. the Governors were to erect on a suitable site the High School, with capacity for further extension, capable of accommodating 150 boys, and for this purpose to expend the capital funds under their management to the extent of £5,000, but they should not exceed that amount without the sanction of the Charity Commissioners. The entrance-fee was £4, and the tuition fee was to be not less than £12 and not more than £25 per annum. Also, "The fee for boarding, apart from tuition, shall not exceed £50 a-year, of which the Governors may require a part to be accounted for and paid to the general funds of the Trust."

There were various regulations as to boarders and also as to the exhibitions.

## THE RE-ORGANIZED ORME SCHOOL.

By Part V., to the Middle School was assigned the Orme School in the Higherland, and the Governors were authorized to expend from the

capital funds £1,500 in enlarging or adapting or otherwise improving the site and buildings. Mr. Emmanuel Earl was appointed head-master, and if he were dismissed by the Governors without assigning cause he was to have an annual pension of £100 for his life. There were various clauses dealing with the Head-master's salary, curriculum of the school, close and open exhibitions, and the two following important clauses :—

"64.—All boys, except as herein provided, shall pay such tuition fees as the Governors shall fix from time to time, provided that no such tuition fee shall be less than £2 or more than £5 a-year for boys under 14 years of age, or less than £4 or more than £6 a-year for boys over 14 years of age. Provided, also, that boys who were on the Foundation of Orme's School on the 2nd day of August, 1871, shall be entitled to receive instruction gratuitously in such subjects as were then taught in the said school, but for instruction in the other subjects prescribed in this part of this scheme they shall pay such fee, not being less than 20s. a-year, as the Governors shall determine. No extras of any kind shall be allowed without the sanction of the Governors."

"65.—No boy shall be admitted into the school unless he has attained the age of eight years. No boy shall remain in the school after the expiration of the term in which he attains the age of 16 years."

## THE GIRLS' SCHOOL.

By Part VI., the Governors were to select a site for the Girls' School and to erect thereon school buildings capable of accommodating 100 girls, with capacity for further extension. The establishment was to comprise a residence for the Head-mistress and a sufficient playground for the girls. The Governors were allowed to expend for these purposes from the capital funds a sum of £2,000. The fees were to be not less than £2 or more than £5 a-year for girls under 14 years of age, or less than £4 or more than £6 a-year for girls over 14 years of age. There were other clauses about the leaving age, curriculum, and exhibitions.

## ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.

Part VII. dealt with elementary education. Within one month from the date of the scheme

the Governors were to pay out of the capital funds of the trust the sum of £2,500 to the School Board of Newcastle, to be applied by the Board in or towards the erection of public elementary schools within their district. The Governors were to pay out of the income of the trust to the School Board the annual sum of £300 to be applied by the Board in the advancement of the education of boys and girls belonging to the public elementary schools of their district, in one or more of the following ways :—

" (A) Providing free places or other prizes to be given to meritorious scholars in such schools ;

(B) Providing exhibitions for promising scholars of sufficient amount to induce their parents to keep them at such schools somewhat longer than they would otherwise be likely to remain ;

(C) Providing a lending library or lending libraries for such scholars ;

(D) Providing maps for physical geography, drawings, scientific apparatus, and the like articles, being more expensive than could be afforded without the aid of this endowment ;

(E) Providing lectures or evening classes for such schools ;

(F) Providing additional playground accommodation, gymnastic apparatus, expenses of military drill, or otherwise assisting the games or exercises of such scholars ;

(G) Providing aids to industrial instruction, such as tools and carpenter's sheds, field gardens or allotments for boys, or kitchens or laundries for girls ;

(H) Providing exhibitions tenable at the Middle School or some other school of more advanced instruction ;

(I) Meeting the cost of paying or remitting the fees in such public elementary schools for children whose parents are too poor to pay them."

Parts VIII. and IX. were concerned with the application of the income, such as a repairs and improvement fund, pensions for the heads of the schools, also with regard to further endowments. Clause 87 is as follows :—" This scheme shall be printed and a copy given to every person who shall become a Governor of the Trust, and to every Master or Assistant Master or Teacher appointed to the school, and copies shall be sold

at a reasonable price to all persons who may wish to buy."

After dealing fully with the main foundation—the Orme Charity—the Charity Commissioners in sixteen paragraphs provided for the three minor endowments to be amalgamated with the principal scheme.

## THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

The following were two of the seven clauses dealing with the "Scheme for the Management of the Grammar School founded by Richard Cleyton, at Newcastle-under-Lyme, in the county of Stafford, in the year 1602."

"(2) From and after the date of this scheme the governing body of this Foundation shall be the same as is provided by another scheme framed by the Endowed Schools Commissioners for the management of Edward Orme's Foundation in Newcastle, it being intended that this Foundation shall henceforth be united and placed under one management with Orme's Foundation and with certain other Foundations, and shall with them form a single Foundation or Trust under the title of the Newcastle Endowed Schools, according to the provisions of the said other scheme."

"(4) From and after the same date the Rev. John Samuel Broad shall cease to be master of the school on this Foundation, and the governing body of this Foundation shall thenceforth pay to him the annual sum of £50 for his life."

## THE CHARITIES OF COWELL, BAGNALL, AND HATRELL.

The two other minor schemes were entitled:—"Scheme for the Management of the annual sum of £8, and arrears of the same since the year 1827, due from the Corporation of Newcastle, on account of the Foundations of John Cowell and Thos. Bagnall," and "Scheme for the Management of the School Charity founded by Thos. Hatrell, at Newcastle-under-Lyme, by will, dated 20th May, 1794."

From the former of these schemes I quote the most important clause:—

"(2) As soon as conveniently may be after the date of this scheme, the Corporation of Newcastle shall pay over the arrears due from them on

account of this Trust to the Governors provided by another scheme framed by the Endowed Schools Commissioners for the management of Edward Orme's Foundation in Newcastle, in augmentation of the capital funds of the Newcastle Endowed Schools. And from and after the same date the said Corporation shall pay over the annual sum of £8 to the same Governors, to be applied by them on the Trusts of the said other scheme."

From the latter of these schemes I quote Clause 3 :—"From and after the same date, Mr. John Taylor shall cease to be master under this Trust, and the Governors shall thenceforth pay to him the annual sum of £10 for his life."

## THE FIRST GOVERNORS.

In August, 1872, two governors, as provided by the scheme, were chosen by the Town Council and two by the School Board.

The first Governors of the Newcastle Endowed Schools were fifteen in number :—Eight co-optative life governors, Joseph Baildon, John Broomhall, William Cartwright, William Henry Dutton, Samuel Edwards, William Hargreaves, William Mellard, Ralph Mosley ; three *ex-officio* Governors : Rowland Hugh Cotton, of Etwall Hall ; Thomas Bayley (the Mayor), and Joseph Knight, chairman of the School Board ; four representative governors : Charles Massey and Charles Orton, elected by the School Board, and Thomas Peake Heath and William Ottey Briggs, by the Town Council.

## THE FIRST MEETING.

The newly-appointed Governors of the Newcastle Endowed Schools held their first meeting on Aug. 21. Mr. Dutton was appointed chairman of the governors, Mr. Hargreaves was chosen vice-chairman, Mr. T. Harding clerk, and the National Provincial Banking Company bankers. It was decided that the Middle School should be opened on Sept. 9, and provision was made for the appointment and the payment of assistant-masters. It was decided that there should be four masters, the second master to teach Latin and French. The scholars then on the Foundation were to be allowed to receive extra instruction in other branches of education on payment of a fee of £1 per annum. The fees for other

pupils in the school were fixed at £3 for boys under fourteen years of age and £4 a-year for boys above the age of fourteen. The house adjoining the school occupied by the Head-master was to be devoted to classrooms until the school was extended.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the Charity Commissioners for permission to lease the minerals comprised in the Knutton estate, which were of very great value. The Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, and Messrs. Baildon and Mosley were appointed a committee to select a site for the High School.

A month later at a second meeting of the Governors, Mr. Earl reported that 63 new boys had been entered. Also the report of Messrs. Bate, of the valuation of the lands belonging to the original Grammar School Trust, was read, and a resolution was carried that the mines should be forthwith advertised to be let by tender.

The Scheme of 1872 has been amended at various times in accordance with more modern requirements, and it would be as well to summarise the alterations of the original Scheme.

## AMENDED SCHEME OF 1898.

The first Scheme for amending that of 1872 was drafted in 1897, and was sealed on the 7th of March, 1898. Part of this amended Scheme dealt with the examination of the scholars by external examiners, but the following was the principal change :—" There shall be added to the Governing Body—

(A) Three representative Governors to be appointed—

Two by the Staffordshire County Council for the remainder of the term for which the then existing County Councillors were elected, and thereafter until the appointment of his successor ; one by the Council of the Victoria University.''

## AMENDED SCHEME OF 1907.

The next amended Scheme was sealed on the 31st of January, 1907. In Clause 2 it stated :—

" There shall be added to the Governing Body three representative Governors, to be appointed each for the term of three years—

One by the Staffordshire County Council (hereinafter called the County Council) if and so long as the County Council contribute not less than £100 per annum towards the maintenance of the schools ;

One by the Town Council of Newcastle (hereinafter called the Town Council), if and so long as the Town Council contribute not less than £100 per annum towards the maintenance of the schools : and

One by the Council of Birmingham University."

Additional Governors might be appointed by a local authority in consideration of a grant by the authority in aid of the school ; governors were not to be personally interested in the Foundation, and five governors were to form a quorum.

## THE ACCOUNTS FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION.

Clause 22 reads as follows :—" On sending accounts for any year to the Board of Education, the Governors shall exhibit for public inspection in some convenient place in Newcastle copies of the accounts so sent [to the Board of Education] for that year, giving due public notice where and when the same may be seen, and they shall at all reasonable times allow the accounts for any year or years to be inspected, and copies thereof or extracts therefrom to be made, by all persons applying for the purpose." There were various other clauses relating to the establishment of a pupil-teacher centre, the alteration in tuition fees, and general instruction.

THE ASSEMBLY HALL OF THE HIGH SCHOOL.

CHAPTER XXI.

# THE HIGH SCHOOL.

The last amended scheme for the Newcastle Endowed Schools was sealed on April 6, 1910. In regard to the Governors, the following clauses are the most important :—

"4.—The Governing Body of the Foundation, in this scheme called the Governors, shall, when complete, consist (subject as in this scheme provided) of eighteen persons, that is to say :—

*Two ex-officio* Governors—namely, the Owner for the time being of Etwall Hall, in the county of Derby, if that owner, being an individual person of full age, is a descendant of William Cotton, of Bellaport, in the county of Salop, the benefactor of the ancient Free Grammar School at Newcastle-under-Lyme ; and the Mayor for the time being of Newcastle-under-Lyme ; and

*Eleven* Representative Governors, to be appointed—Four (of whom one at least shall be a woman) by the Stafford County Council ; Five by the Newcastle-under-Lyme Town Council ; One by the Council of the Victoria University of Manchester ; and One by the Council of the University of Birmingham ; and

*Five* Co-optative Governors (of whom one at least shall be a woman) to be appointed by resolution of the Governors."

"11.—Any Representative or Co-optative Governor who is absent from all meetings of the Governors during a period of one year shall thereupon cease to be a Representative or Co-optative Governor, and any Governor who is adjudicated a bankrupt, or who is incapacitated from acting, or who communicates in writing to the Governors a wish to resign, shall thereupon cease to be a Governor."

## THE ENDOWED SCHOOLS, 1910.

The two following clauses deal with the schools :

"16.—The Schools of the Foundation shall be—(*a*) a Public Secondary School for Boys, to be called the High School, which shall be a Day School, and

if the Governors think fit, a Boarding School, and shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Part II. of this scheme : (*b*) a Public Secondary School for Boys, to be called the Middle School, which shall be a Day School only, and shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Part III. of this scheme : and (*c*) a Public Secondary School for Girls, to be called the Orme Girls' School, which shall be a Day School only, and shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Part IV. of this scheme. The Schools shall be maintained in or near the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme in the present school buildings or in other suitable buildings provided by the Governors."

"17.—All moneys received as income exclusively in respect of any one of the Schools, whether from the fees of pupils or otherwise, shall be applicable wholly for the purposes of that School."

Parts II., III., and IV. give general and particular provisions for the management, organization, curriculum, and maintenance of the three schools, and Part V. deals with miscellaneous provisions.

## FOUNDATION OF THE HIGH SCHOOL.

For the purpose of providing buildings for the High School, the governors were authorized by the original scheme of 1872 to spend the capital funds under their management to the extent of £5,000, and that amount was not to be exceeded without the sanction of the Charity Commissioners. The site was chosen on one of the Burgesses' Common fields, and the governors entered into an agreement to lease for 999 years from March 18, 1873, at a rental of £100 six acres of the Stubbs Field. Prizes were offered for the best designs for the building. After selecting the designs of Messrs. Lewis and Son, Messrs. Snape and Chapman, Messrs. Scrivener and Son, and Mr. Candland, the plans of the first-named were adopted. The original estimated cost of the building was £8,500, but by the requisition of the Commissioners some alterations were made by which the estimated cost was increased by a very considerable sum. The lowest tender received for the building was no less a sum than £11,700 ; but, as the Endowed Schools Commissioners approved the plans of Messrs. Lewis and Son, the Charity Commissioners sanctioned the increased expenditure.

## THE FIRST HEAD-MASTER.

In the meantime the first Head-master of the High School had been appointed. The final selection was made from three candidates, who were masters at Rugby School, Wellington College, and at the Perse School, Cambridge, respectively. Originally, there were 69 candidates, from whom 16 in the first instance were selected. From the final candidates on July 26, 1873, the governors elected unanimously Mr. Francis Elliott Kitchener, of Rugby School, who, after a distinguished career at Cambridge, where he was a Fellow of Trinity College, had gained experience at Wellington College before going to Rugby. Although Mr. Kitchener was not to take up his appointment for another year, yet under his supervision a temporary school in preparation for the High School was opened in the schoolrooms under the Congregational Church in King-street. Mr. F. C. Woodforde and Mr. A. J. Gostick were appointed by Mr. Kitchener to conduct this preparatory school.

## LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE.

The foundation-stone of the High School was laid by Frederick Temple, D.D., the Lord Bishop of Exeter, on Thursday, Sept. 3, 1874. Mr. W. H. Dutton, the chairman of the governors, commenced the proceedings by observing that they had met to initiate a school which would be, in no long time, the first educational institution in the county of Stafford.

After the Bishop of Exeter had offered up a prayer, Mr. Dutton handed his lordship a handsome silver trowel, on which was the following inscription:—"Presented by the Governors of the Newcastle-under-Lyme Endowed Schools to Frederick Temple, D.D., Lord Bishop of Exeter, on the occasion of his laying the foundation-stone of the school, Sept. 3, 1874." The stone (in a cavity in which was placed a bottle containing a copy of the *Staffordshire Advertiser* and of the *Times*, a copy of the Endowed Schools Scheme, and a toast-list to be used at the luncheon) having been lowered, Mr. Lewis presented the Bishop with a plumb-rule, and the ceremony of laying the stone was formally completed.

## BISHOP TEMPLE'S ADDRESS.

The Bishop, who had been head-master of Rugby for 11 years, then addressed the assembly He eulogized his friend Mr. Kitchener. Then he explained why the old Grammar Schools, where one competent Latin and Greek teacher was sufficient, were no longer able to be resuscitated. A group of teachers in a larger school was required. "It became necessary that instead of single small schools scattered about the country, there should be schools of some size, and that those schools should combine within them the teaching of very various subjects, and the consequence is that there has been a growth of large institutions to do the work that could no longer be done by the smaller ones, and those large institutions have gradually forced their way into the foreground." "I am quite sure that under my friend Mr. Kitchener this school will be something more than a mere teaching-place, for the cultivation of mathematics, or science, or literature either. I am quite sure that here boys will learn from those with whom they are brought in contact what it is to live a religious and spiritual life. . . . . They will carry with them principles of Christian life and conduct that will stand by them all through their days, and give the inhabitants of Newcastle tenfold reason to be proud of having such a school amongst them."

At the luncheon in the Guildhall, Mr. Dutton presided, and was supported right and left by Dr. Temple (the Bishop of Exeter), Mr. Arthur Leech (the Mayor of Newcastle), Mr. C. M. Campbell, M.P., the Rev. Sir L. T. Stamer, Bart., and Lady Stamer, Mr. George Melly, M.P., Mr. W. S. Allen, M.P., Mr. T. F. Twemlow, Mr. Kitchener, and Capt. Cotton.

## THE NEW "RUGBY" SCHOOL.

Mr. Melly proposed the toast, "Success to the Newcastle High School." He expressed the hope that they had that day laid the foundation-stone of a school which would be the Rugby of Staffordshire, and would be governed by Rugby traditions. Good, sound, earnest work, a determination to succeed, a rough-and-ready sense of reponsibility —these, under Arnold, under Tait, and under Temple, had ever been the traditions of Rugby. He believed the spirit of that tradition had been introduced that day with the foundation-stone of

the Newcastle High School, and that it would animate the Head-master, Mr. Kitchener. There might not be the ancient chapel, the ivy-covered master's house, and the elms under which so many Rugby boys, for nearly two centuries, had reclined, but from Rugby would come the idea that every boy must be determined to do his duty in the world. He gave the toast "Success to the New 'Rugby' of Staffordshire."

## Mr. W. H. DUTTON'S ADDRESS.

The Chairman, in responding to the toast, said many in that room would remember how small and insignificant were once the resources of this educational trust—a trust which had culminated that day in the inauguration of a scheme which he would fain hope would take a brilliant position among the educational establishments of the kingdom. There was a time within the memory of men then living when Newcastle was the centre of a wide and barren district. A few small villages lay in the adjoining valley, but these had since grown into large and important towns, the seat of a manufacture which above all others represented an advanced stage of civilization. In the same valley, and indeed all round, another manufacture had sprung up which represented more than any other the material power of the country, but the denizens of Newcastle itself had been left behind in the race. Newcastle was not behind many other places in age and dignity; it was not mouldering to decay; but it drew its sustenance from the prosperity of its neighbours. The inhabitants now proposed to pay back some portion of the debt which in this way they owed to their neighbours. The great resources of the district were the result of the manufactures which had been established in the vicinity, and but for which the property of the trustees would still have been barren land scarcely affording a competence to the Grammar School and Orme's School. Like those of many other places, the charities of Newcastle were trivial in bygone days, when they were first founded, and they were only founded for purposes consistent with those times. Throughout England almost all the old grammar schools had been swept away, but "in our case we have been singularly fortunate, for great mineral wealth has been found upon the property, and accumulations of the last few years have justified the creation of a scheme which may safely be looked upon as one which promises to be amongst the richest trusts

of the Empire. . . . . The scheme does not benefit any particular class to the exclusion of the rest, but all will be able to avail themselves of its wise provisions. . . . . In 1704 the Rev. Edward Orme devised a very small property for a peculiar trust. In the words of the trust, it was 'to teach the children of the poorest inhabitants of Newcastle to read and write and cast accounts.' For generations after the date of the bequest the trust was so small that it was barely sufficient to carry out even Mr. Orme's modest wishes. Latterly, however, the trust has become so rich that it had more than £25,000, with which Orme's School was founded. It was established for the education of 150 boys, and they certainly were educated in a most excellent manner. . . . . After a time the trustees accumulated £30,000, and there were some who said that this money ought to have been employed in accordance with the wishes of the donor." But £2,500 had been paid over to provide accommodation for the children of the poor of Newcastle, and, in addition, £300 a year would be paid to the School Board for the benefit of those who were too poor to pay school fees. By this means more children would be educated free than if Orme's School had been extended under the scheme of 1847.

Although the foundation-stone was laid in September, 1874, it was not till the spring of the next year that the contract was completed, and Messrs. H. and R. Inskip, the builders, of Longton, commenced operations. The High School occupies an elevated site, about seven acres in extent, above the Stubbs Walk. The façade of the school portion of the building faces Mount Pleasant, with the principal entrance in the centre, and it is so arranged that a tower can be added at some future time. The Head-master's house, fronting towards the Stubbs Walk, is after the model adopted at Wellington College.

## MR. JOSEPH MAYER'S GIFTS.

In May, 1875, Mr. Joseph Mayer, of Bebington, gave £2,500 to found three exhibitions, and he executed a deed declaring the trust which was deposited with the Charity Commissioners. The first exhibition, tenable for three years in any University in Great Britain, was to be allotted in July, 1877, for proficiency in mathematics and natural science. The second, also tenable for three years, was to be allotted in July, 1878, for

proficiency in art studies, and could be held either at the School of Art, South Kensington, or in the Royal Academies of England, Ireland, and Scotland, or any great School of Art, to be appointed from time to time by the Governors. The third, similar to the second exhibition, was to be awarded in July, 1879. Also, arrangements were made for awarding three "Mayer Prizes."

Because the art scholarships failed to produce competitors, whilst additional science and mathematical exhibitions were greatly needed, an alteration was made whereby all the three "Mayer Exhibitions" were awarded for science and mathematics.

Mr. Joseph Mayer made very valuable additions to the High School library, and he deposited there 150 folio volumes containing the original correspondence of the great Josiah Wedgwood, to which Miss Meteyard alone had had access and upon which she had founded her work on Wedgwood. The Arundel pictures, a terra-cotta medallion of Elijah Fenton, and various antiquarian and historical exhibits in the school museum are the gift of Mr. Joseph Mayer.

## OPENING OF THE HIGH SCHOOL.

The High School, as far as the lecture theatre, was opened in May, 1876, the big school, dormitories, and the rest of the school buildings being opened in September, whilst the first speech-day was on Dec. 19, 1876.

In 1878 the covered fives court was erected by subscription, Mr. Kitchener opening with a contribution of £50.

In July, 1886, the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of London, who laid the foundation-stone of the High School in 1874, presented the prizes and gave an address.

In 1887, Mr. Miles Settle endowed a prize for subjects qualifying for the profession of mining engineer.

In 1891 the Kitchener Exhibition for Languages, in memory of the first Head-master, was founded by subscription.

As the scope of this book is designed to give a history of the educational endowments down to, but not beyond, their amalgamation, the full history of the schools is not given in detail, and so I pick out a few of the main dates in conclusion.

The completion of the levelling of the school close took place in 1907, and a new dressing-room was built in 1910.

Mr. G. W. Rundall, M.A., of Marlborough College, was elected head-master in the place of Mr. Kitchener on May 26, 1891.

The present Head-master is Mr. F. Harrison, M.A., who took up his duties at the beginning of the spring term, 1901.

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL.

CHAPTER XXII.

# THE ORME GIRLS' SCHOOL AND THE MIDDLE SCHOOL.

Part VI. of the Newcastle Endowed Schools Scheme of 1872 is entitled "The Girls' School and its Management." Paragraph 70 is as follows:—"As soon as may be after the date of this scheme, the Governors shall select a site for the Girls' School, and shall erect thereon school buildings capable of accommodating 100 girls or thereabouts, with capacity for further extension. The establishment shall comprise a residence for the Head-mistress and a sufficient playground for the girls. For this purpose, they shall be at liberty to expend the capital funds of the Trust to the extent of £2,000, but they shall not exceed that amount without the sanction of the Charity Commissioners. Plans and estimates for the buildings shall be submitted for approval to the Endowed Schools Commissioners."

## THE SITE FOR THE GIRLS' SCHOOL.

At the annual meeting of the Governors of the Endowed Schools on Feb. 27, 1875, the Chairman, Mr. W. H. Dutton, said that they had been at great trouble to procure a suitable site for the erection of the Orme Girls' School. The school was simply an experiment. They wanted to bring about a mixture of all classes in the school to found an institution where the children of the highest class might not think it beneath them to mix with children of a lower standing in the ranks of society. With the object of seeking a site for such a school, the Sites Committee had traversed the borough in every direction, but for a long time were unsuccessful in their endeavour to take the first step to carry out the wish of the public. At last, the committee found what they deemed to be a suitable site in the neighbourhood of Stubbs Walks, but at present there was no road to the land thus discovered. A road would have to be made, and Mr. Bate, surveyor, had prepared a plan which was now laid before the Trustees for their approval.

## THE FIRST GIRLS' SCHOOL.

Finally, all difficulties were overcome, the new road, Victoria-road, was made, and the school was built by Messrs. Inskip, of Longton, under the immediate superintendence of the architects, Messrs. Chapman and Snape, of Newcastle.

It was commenced in July, 1876, and finished early in 1877. It contained on the ground floor a schoolroom 40ft. by 22ft., three separate classrooms each 20ft. by 15ft., communicating with the principal entrance, and large school by means of a corridor five feet wide ; lavatory and cloakroom 51ft. by 8ft., properly fitted up : waiting and book rooms, and the usual out-offices. A drawing school, 21ft. by 20ft., with model room attached, and approached by a staircase direct from the principal entrance, was formed over one of the classrooms, and a portion of the corridor. Advantage was taken of a rapid fall in the ground to form a covered playground or gymnasium, under the schoolroom, and a vault for the heating apparatus was constructed under the book-room. The expenditure being limited, the architects adopted the Early English Gothic style of architecture, treated in a plain manner, with the object of obtaining with simple materials a substantial rather than an elaborate and slightly-constructed building. A bell turret, covered with small green slates, was carried up from the roof of the schoolroom. The buildings were designed so as to be easily enlarged, and this was to be done by forming new classrooms over those on the ground floor, thus making the portion facing the public walks two stories in height to match the drawing school. This arrangement was a wise one, for the Mistress's residence, including dining and drawing rooms, kitchen, and three bedrooms, had to be appropriated for teaching purposes soon after the school was opened owing to the large attendance of pupils. Miss Mary F. Martin was the first Head-mistress. When, in August, 1877, she informed the mistresses of the Girls' Elementary Schools that the Governors had resolved to open five exhibitions enabling that number of girls to attend the Orme Girls' School free, no candidates presented themselves for examination.

## MISS MARTIN'S FIRST REPORT.

Early in 1878 Miss Martin presented her first report to the Governors. It was: "The Spring term (1877) commenced with 62 pupils. At Easter the new building was occupied, when there were 30 fresh pupils—an increase of 27 upon the previous term. After Easter, Mr. Holt was chosen to assist in teaching the music pupils who had increased. A French governess and a junior English teacher have been added to the staff during the year. Next term the study of German will be taken up in the two highest classes and Latin in the two next below." In 1878 the number of girls who sat for the annual examination was 131.

In 1880 the numbers on the school register each term were:—Spring term, 145; summer term, 147; autumn term, 150.

In 1885 three new classrooms on the first floor were added.

## THE SCHOOL UNDER MISS POWELL.

Since the present Head-mistress, Miss Margaret Powell, came in 1891, the school has been twice enlarged.

In 1900 two classrooms (the present cooking-room and the one below it), a cloakroom, and a new staircase were built, towards the cost of which a sum of nearly £500 was received by Miss Powell in subscriptions from parents, friends, and governors of the Endowed Schools.

In 1907 a much larger addition was made. The corridor was enlarged by the addition of a crush hall, the roof of the old assembly-room was raised, two large classrooms made on the upper floor, and the present assembly-room was built with cloakroom accommodation below.

In 1891 there were 209 pupils. There has been a steady increase since, and now the present number is 341, exclusive of 10 student-teachers who come one day a-week.

## THE OPENING OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL.

After the Orme School closed for the summer holidays in 1872 it was opened on Sept. 9 as the Middle School. For the first term there were 142 boys on the register, of whom 81 were from the old Orme foundation. Forty of these paid

£1 per annum and 41 paid nothing at all, as provided by Paragraph 64 in the scheme of 1872 :— "All boys, except as herein provided, shall pay such tuition fees as the Governors shall fix from time to time, provided that no such tuition fee shall be less than £2 or more than £5 a-year for boys under 14 years of age, or less than £4 or more than £6 a-year for boys over 14 years of age. Provided also, that boys who were on the foundation of Orme's School on the 2nd day of August, 1871, shall be entitled to receive instruction gratuitously in such subjects as were then taught in the said school, but for instruction in the other subjects prescribed in this part of this scheme they shall pay such fee, not being less than 20s. a-year, as the governors shall determine. No extras of any kind shall be allowed without the sanction of the Governors."

## THE OLD REGISTERS.

Of the 61 new scholars, 58 paid fees at the rate of £3 per annum, and the remaining three at the rate of £4 per annum.

The Orme foundation scholars were entered first in the register, and the first name is "Alfred Geo. Earl, age 12," and the fourth records the entry of the late Ald. W. L. Elliott, who was elected Mayor of the borough in 1906 and in 1907, and was chairman of the Endowed Schools from 1906 until 1912.

Ten of the boys had previously been taught at the old Newcastle Grammar School. In the summer term 1873 there were 226 boys on the register, and for the next four terms the scholars averaged 224, though only once again was the number 226 reached—namely, in the summer of 1874.

On Dec. 17, 1874, the boys presented Mr. Earl, the head-master, with a handsome edition of the works of Charles Dickens, in 26 volumes, together with the life of that author by Forster. The volumes contained the following inscription : —"Presented to Mr. Earl, head-master of the Endowed Middle School, Newcastle-under-Lyme, on his fiftieth birthday, by his affectionate pupils."

## CHANGES IN 1875.

At a meeting of the Governors on Feb. 25, 1875, the Chairman, Mr. W. H. Dutton, said that upon fixing the fees for the Middle School at £3, they

had attracted between 215 and 230, or, on an average, 220 boys. The Trustees paid the Head-master £100 per year and a capitation fee of £1 per head, and to pay the assistant-masters they had only the balance of fees—namely, £440. Now to give a proper education to 220 boys, six masters were engaged, and unless the Trustees made the schools ruinously expensive, they were obliged to fix the salaries of the masters very low. He was ashamed to tell them that in the case of two junior masters, who were expected to give a good education to their pupils, one was paid £70 and the other £80 per year. At their last meeting the Trustees determined to raise the fees to £1 8s. per term. In doing so, they contemplated raising the salaries of the masters so as to ensure an efficient discharge of the duties required. They expected to establish exhibitions to the extent of 25 per cent. of the whole number of pupils in the Middle School.

Until the Old Orme School was enlarged in 1874–5, according to the Scheme, by the addition of what is now the southern end of the old buildings, Mr. Earl's house was utilized for class-room accommodation.

## RESIGNATION OF MR. EARL.

After nearly 30 years' of service under the Orme Trustees and the Endowed Schools Governors, Mr. Earl was pensioned, and Mr. D. B. Hurley, M.A., who had been the second master, in September, 1879, became the Head-master of the Middle School.

The first boy whose name he entered in the register was:—"George Underhill Mellard, 12 years, son of William Mellard, of The Beeches."

## CHANGES IN 1907.

The number of boys in the Middle School fluctuated very considerably for many years; but I pass over as out of the scope of this account the many minor changes that took place during the next 27 years. At the end of 1906, owing to ill-health, Mr. Hurley resigned, and during the spring term, 1907, Dr. Rutter was appointed Head-master.

Since his appointment rapid changes have taken place.

In 1907, by reason of the great improvements made in the organization, curriculum, and general efficiency, the Government grant was gained, and once more the Middle School was recognized by the Board of Education as a Public Secondary School.

## MR. HURLEY AND MR. BRADE.

Mr. D. B. Hurley severed his connection with the school in the same year, and in the summer occurred the death of Mr. T. H. Brade, who had been a master in the old Orme School and in the Middle School since its foundation in 1872. His connection with the Orme School did not begin with his appointment as a master there in 1863, for he was one of the first of Mr. Earl's scholars when the school was opened in 1851. He was Mr. Hurley's senior master from 1879 until the end of the year 1906, and he practically died in harness, as he resigned owing to illness from which he never recovered.

Mr. Hurley and Mr. Brade were two of Mr. Arnold Bennett's schoolmasters. In the summer term of 1882 there were 20 new boys, and one entry is thus recorded in the Middle School register:—"No. 810. Arnold E. Bennett, aged 14, son of Enoch Bennett, 205, Waterloo-road, Burslem, solicitor. From the Burslem Endowed School. Date of admission, May 9th, 1882. Passed the Cambridge Local Examination December, 1882, and the London Matriculation in 1885," when he left.

## EXTENSIONS IN 1908 AND 1911.

A new block of buildings, comprising a lecture-room, a large laboratory, a woodshop, and a cycle-room, was built and opened in 1908. Minor alterations were carried out in the old buildings; cloakroom accommodation was provided in what is now the Master's common room, and what was in the first instance two bedrooms in Mr. Earl's house; the assembly-hall was divided by a lofty sliding partition; the drains were entirely reconstructed.

Consequent upon the rapid growth of the school, an enlargement was made in 1911. The existing two-storey building was extended along the main road up to what is now the corner of the two principal roads leading out of Newcastle in the direction of Keele. The new building is of stone, and continues in style the architecture of the old

school. On the ground floor are a new cloak-room, the physical laboratory with optical-room and preparation-room opening out of it, two classrooms, main entrance hall, and corridor. The floor above comprises two classrooms and a spacious corridor with an open stone staircase communicating with the ground floor.

The numbers in the school have increased from 120 rather more than six years ago to an average of 262. In the spring term 1912, the number of scholars was 269, in the summer term 256, and in the autumn term 261.

The school is full, and there are some 47 candidates on the waiting list.

## MR. W. L. ELLIOTT.

The Newcastle Endowed Schools sustained a severe loss when Ald. W. L. Elliott, the chairman of the Governors, died on Nov. 14, 1912. He entered the Orme School on Aug. 17, 1866, was transferred to the Middle School in 1872, and left in 1874.

His strong dominant personality made him a power for good in all public work which he undertook. For more than ten years he directed the financial business of the Corporation, and his administration was most beneficial to the town. In 1901 he was appointed a Governor of the Endowed Schools, and when Mr. Kitchener resigned the chairmanship in 1906 Mr. Elliott was appointed to the vacancy. Towards the end of 1912 Mr. Kitchener again took over the reins of office, but on May 23, 1913, once more he resigned the chairmanship, and Col. A. H. Heath was thereupon unanimously appointed.

## THE FUTURE OF THE SCHOOLS.

I cannot do better than close this account by quoting part of Dr. Rutter's speech on Dec. 9, 1909, delivered in the Municipal Hall on the occasion of the annual distribution of prizes to students attending the Middle School:—"Invaluable as the Endowed Schools have been to the town of Newcastle in the past, I think that they may become still more important in the future. A fortnight ago, on the occasion of the prize distribution at the Orme Girls' School, Mr. Kitchener remarked:—'The three schools of Newcastle were going to be left as it were stranded on the shores of the sea of the Potteries, and we

did not know what would happen.' I believe that the uncertainty expressed in this sentence applies no less to the town of Newcastle than to its schools. The independence of the town of Newcastle cannot be maintained, in the long run, merely by sentiment; it must, I think, depend upon definite institutions, either buildings or organizations, or traditions, which are not only strongly characteristic of the town, but are also superior in their way to similar institutions in the Potteries. It rests with the town to take stock of such institutions, to safeguard their welfare, and to ensure their prosperity, if it would maintain its own individuality. Among the institutions of this town there is none so ancient in its origin, so far-reaching in its works, and so benevolent in its influence as the Newcastle Endowed Schools Foundation, which possesses not only stately buildings, but also a widespread organization and a splendid tradition."

# SCHEDULE

OF THE

# PROPERTY OF THE FOUNDATION.

| Description. | Extent or Amount. A. | R. | P. | Gross Yearly Income. £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Site and buildings of the High School, including the Head Master's house, held for a term of 999 years from 18th March, 1873, at a yearly rent of £116 2s. 11d. .. .. .. | | — | | | — | |
| Site and buildings of the Middle School .. .. .. .. | | — | | | — | |
| Site and buildings of the Orme Girls' School, including playground and Caretaker's house .. .. .. | | — | | | — | |
| Land at Knutton, subject to chief-rents of 12s. 10d. and £1 5s. 0d. per annum .. .. .. .. | 35 | 3 | 39½ | 41 | 0 | 0 |
| Land and brickworks at Knutton, subject to chief-rent of 16s. per annum .. .. .. .. | 31 | 0 | 7 | 189 | 17 | 6 |
| Cottage at Bull's Bank .. .. | | — | | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| ,, ,, ,, ,, .. .. | | — | | 5 | 4 | 0 |
| Land at School Ground Farm .. | 23 | 3 | 2½ | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| ,, ,, ,, Knutton | 7 | 0 | 0 | 299 | 12 | 0 |
| Mines at Knutton .. .. .. | | — | | 20 certain rent and an acreage rent. | 0 | 0 |
| Rent-charges on premises : | | | | | | |
| In Penkhull Street, Newcastle .. | | — | | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| In Ironmonger Lane, London .. | | — | | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| In Victoria Road, Newcastle .. | | — | | 28 | 15 | 11 |
| Ground rents on property : | | | | | | |
| At West Hampstead, London .. | | — | | 85 | 0 | 0 |
| At Putney Hill, London .. .. | | — | | 490 | 0 | 0 |
| At Boscombe, Hants, subject until 25th December, 1967, to an overriding rent-charge of £125 per annum .. .. .. .. | | — | | 261 | 10 | 6 |
| At Uttoxeter Road, Normacot, Staffs. .. .. .. .. | | — | | 18 | 4 | 7 |
| At Birkenhead, Cheshire .. | | — | | 45 | 0 | 0 |
| At Liverpool, Lancs. .. .. | | — | | 60 | 0 | 0 |
| Carried forward .. .. | .. | | .. | £1610 | 14 | 6 |

| | Extent or Amount. | | | Gross Yearly Income. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
| Brought forward .. | .. | .. | | 1610 | 14 | 6 |
| Consols .. .. .. .. | 5722 | 4 | 3 | 130 | 6 | 6 |
| „ Order, May, 1907, Girls' School .. .. .. | 621 | 8 | 5 | accumulating | | |
| „ Order, August, 1911, Middle School .. .. .. | 2415 | 5 | 2 | „ | | |
| „ Order, August, 1911, Loan, Mayer Exhibition .. | 861 | 2 | 0 | „ | | |
| Cowell & Bagnall's Gifts, etc. .. | | | | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| L. & N.-W. Ry. Consol. 4 per cent. Pref. Stock .. .. .. .. | 1250 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| Total (excluding acreage, rent of mines, and without deducting certain fixed rents) .. .. .. .. .. | | | | £1811 | 1 | 0 |

# THE GOVERNORS

OF THE

# NEWCASTLE ENDOWED SCHOOLS, 1872—1913.

EIGHT CO-OPTATIVE LIFE GOVERNORS SELECTED FROM THE ORME TRUSTEES AND APPOINTED IN THE SCHEME OF 1872:

Joseph Baildon.
John Broomhall.
William Cartwright, Vice-Chairman, 1881–6.
William Henry Dutton, Chairman, 1872–96.
Samuel Edwards, Vice-Chairman, 1887–90.
William Hargreaves, Vice-Chairman, 1872–80.
William Mellard, Vice-Chairman, 1891, 1893–4; Mayor, 1877–8.
Ralph Mosley.

EX-OFFICIO GOVERNORS.

(Hereditary.)

Rowland Hugh Cotton, owner of Etwall Hall, heir male of William Cotton, 1872, died 1891.
Rowland Charles Hugh Cotton, owner of Etwall Hall, heir male of William Cotton, 1891, died 1894.
Constance Lilian Cotton, owner of Etwall Hall, descendant of William Cotton, 1910–.

(Mayors.)

Thomas Bayley, Mayor, 1871–2; Town Council, 1882–94.
Samuel Hyslop, Mayor, 1872–3 and 1892–4; Town Council, 1894–1902.
Arthur Leech, Mayor, 1873–4 and 1875–6.
William Otty Briggs, Mayor, 1874–5 and 1891–2; Town Council, 1872–82; Vice-Chairman, 1892.
Thomas Lewis, Mayor, 1876–7.
John Thomas Arlidge, M.D., Mayor, 1878–9.
John Gallimore, Mayor, 1879–80; Chairman of School Board, 1889–1901; Co-opted, 1904–9.
Thomas Peake Heath, Town Council, 1872–1909; Mayor, 1880–1 and 1905–6; Vice-Chairman, 1897–1909.
Joseph Griffith, Mayor, 1881–2.
Robert Mayer, Mayor, 1882–3.
John Hand, Mayor, 1883–4.
Thomas Bullock, Mayor, 1884–6; School Board, 1877–87.
Richard Bartlett Mellard, Mayor, 1886–7, 1889–90, 1895–6, 1900–1, 1904–5; Co-opted, 1894–1907.
James Higson, Mayor, 1887–8.
John Addison Whittingham, Mayor, 1888–9; Town Council, 1901–10.

Edward Henry Croydon, Mayor, 1890–1.
Charles Henry Hardeman, Mayor, 1894–6; Vice-Chairman, 1895–6; County Council, 1898–1909.
Francis Stanier, Mayor, 1896–9.
William Needham Webster, Mayor, 1899–1900.
Sir Alfred Seale Haslam, M.P., Mayor, 1901–4.
William Lowe Elliott, Town Council, 1901; Mayor, 1906–8; Co-opted, 1906–12; Chairman, 1906–12.
Sydney Myott, Mayor, 1908–9; Town Council, 1909–.
James Lovatt, Chairman of School Board, 1901–2; Mayor, 1909–10.
Robert Cadwallader Trigger, Mayor, 1910–2.
William Mellard, Mayor, 1912.–.

(Chairmen of the School Board.)

Joseph Knight, Chairman of the School Board, 1871–83.
Rowland Richard Cousens, Chairman of the School Board, 1883–9.

Co-optative Governors.

Francis Elliott Kitchener, M.A., Co-opted 1891–6; Chairman, 1896–1906 and 1912–3; County Council, 1909–; Vice-Chairman, 1909–12.
David Keene Johnson, School Board, 1889–1902; Chairman of Education Committee, 1902–8; Town Council, 1901–8; Co-opted, 1909–; Vice-Chairman, 1912–.
Edward Turner, Co-opted, 1896–1904.
Frederick Turner Dutton, Co-opted, 1899; died, 1899.
William Moody, Co-opted, 1899–1905.
Walter John Elliott, Co-opted, 1906–11.
Frank Shufflebotham, M.D., Co-opted, 1907–.
Rhoda Balfour, Co-opted, 1910–.
Francis Hamilton Wedgwood, Co-opted, 1912–.
Arthur Hassam, Chairman of Education Committee, 1909–10; Co-opted, 1913–.

Representative Governors.

Charles Massey, School Board, 1872–7.
Charles Orton, School Board, 1872–7.
Thomas Edge, School Board, 1877–87.
Edward Fenton, School Board 1887–92.
Howard Robert Ramm, School Board, 1887–92.
John Shufflebotham, School Board, 1892–1901.
Arthur Howard Heath M.P. County Council 1898–; Chairman 1913–.
Sir Oliver Joseph Lodge, Victoria University, 1898–1903; Birmingham Univer.ity, 1908–10.
John Wilcox Edge, County Council, 1898–.
Frederic William Gamble, F.R.S., Manchester University, 1906–9.
James Emery, Town Council, 1908–.

Clement John Wain, Town Council, 1909–.
Thomas Allan Trotter, Town Council, 1909–.
The Right Honourable Katherine Euphemia Lady Farrer, County Council, 1910–13.
Professor John Cadman, D.Sc., Birmingham University, 1910–.
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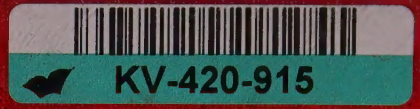
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